

Pay & Personnel Newsletter

United States Coast Guard Pay & Personnel Center

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Overseas Screening Process Update

R 28 FEB 2018

UNCLAS //N01300//

ALCGPSC 033/18

SUBJ: UPDATE TO PSCINST 1300

A. Screening for Overseas Duty, PSCINST 1300

B. ALCGPSC 002/18

1. Based on continuous review of reference (A), changes to clarify and further streamline the overseas screening process were needed. These changes include: designating SMTC, TRACENs, and CG Academy as entry approval points for single members; additional definition; removal of the CG-3307 requirement; clarification of performance and weight requirements; and add a country to an Entry Approval Point.

2. The following pen-and-ink changes to reference (A) are effective immediately:

- a. Enclosure 1, "Bona Fide Resident. (per JTR) The requirement to be command sponsored does not apply to a non-foreign OCONUS PDS if the acquired dependents are bona fide residents of the respective area. However, all bona fide residents who become dependents shall be screened to identify any special needs or other conditions."
- b. Enclosure 2, paragraph 1.b., add, "A new screening is not required for a member in receipt of fleet-up or one-year extension orders, however, the member shall advise the command of any condition/status changes since their last screening."
- c. Enclosure 2, paragraph 3.b.(2)(g), delete.
- d. Enclosure 2, paragraph 3.b.(3)(d), delete "and CG-3307".
- e. Enclosure 2, paragraph 3.b.(5)(a) and (g), change to "Special Missions Training Center (SMTC)".
- f. Enclosure 2, paragraph 3.c., Table 1, add to Base Portsmouth row "Canada".
- g. Enclosure 2, paragraph 3.c., Table 1, change to "Special Missions Training Center (SMTC)".
- h. Enclosure 2, paragraph 3.c., Table 1, add row "TRACENs/CG Academy" and "All single-members to OCONUS units".
- i. Enclosure 2, paragraph 4.c. delete, replace with: "Weight Standard. Member with a history of two or more failed weigh-ins in the past 36 months or currently on probation may be disqualified."

- j. Enclosure 2, paragraph 4.d. delete, replace with: "Performance. Member with an unsatisfactory conduct mark on the evaluation report in the previous 36 months may be disqualified."
- k. Enclosure 2, paragraph 5.a. and b., change to "SMTC".
- l. Enclosure 2, paragraph 5.b., Table 3, delete row "Complete form CG-3307."
- m. Reference B remains in effect for AY18.

3. These changes will be reflected in future versions of the CG-1300 (series) forms.

4. Standardized order notes, which are available on the Overseas Screening Portal, are updated regularly to ensure current JTR compliance. All SPOs shall utilize these notes.

5. Additional information is available on the Overseas Screening Portal site to include webinars and interview questions: https://cg.portal.uscg.mil/units/psc/psc-bops/SitePages/overseas_scening.aspx.

6. My point of contact is CG Personnel Service Center, Business Operations Capabilities Branch (CG PSC-BOPS-C) at HQS-SG-CGPSC-BOPS-C@uscg.mil.

7. Released by: RDML M. T. Bell, Jr., Commander, CG Personnel Service Center. The Service Center for our Most Important Resources – Our People.

8. Internet release authorized.

Updated Form and Procedure for Requesting Change in Reserve Component Category

R 28 FEB 18

BT

UNCLAS //N01001//

ALCGRSV 005/18

SUBJ: CHANGE IN RESERVE COMPONENT CATEGORY FORM, CG-1001

A. Reserve Policy Manual, COMDTINST M1001.28 (series)

1. This message announces an update to the Change in Reserve Component Category (RCC) Form, CG-1001.

2. The revised CG-1001 is the result of feedback from field units. The new CG-1001 is designed to provide

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greater clarity of the RCC process and allow commands and Reserve Force Readiness System (RFRS) staffs the ability to provide a detailed recommendation to ensure a more thorough vetting of RCC requests.

3. IAW reference (a) and established CG PSC-RPM business practices, the CG-1001 is required for all members requesting a change in RCC (i.e. SELRES, IRR, ASL or ISL). All RCC change requests shall be submitted through the member's command and District/DOL-1/PAC-13 RFRS staff, to the CG PSC-RPM-1 Status Section at: ARL-PF-CGPSC-RPM-1-Status@uscg.mil. Members shall continue to drill until RCC approval is received from CG PSC-RPM to avoid potential recoupment due to advanced payment of SGLI premiums.

4. The updated CG-1001 is now available on CG Portal and on the internet at: <http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-C4IT-CG-6/The-Office-of-Information-Management-CG-61/Forms-Management/CG-Forms/>.

5. Effective immediately, previous versions of the CG-1001 will no longer be accepted. RCC requests submitted after the release of this message using a previous version of the CG-1001, or without supporting documentation, will be returned without action.

6. Questions about the RCC process should be directed to unit RFRS staffs.

7. CG PSC-RPM POC: RPM-1 Status Section at ARL-PF-To complete your part of the PHA, click on "Start New Assessment" and then "My PHA". Answer all the questions, then electronically sign to finish your questionnaire. Once you're done, if you get your PHA from a Coast Guard or Department of Defense (DoD) clinic, call the clinic so you can get an appointment to have your PHA reviewed. If you get your PHA through the Reserve Health Readiness Program (RHRP), contact the Health Services Technician (HS) assigned to your unit, and he or she will pass on your PHA to RHRP and will request any other medical readiness services you need. If you don't know which HS is assigned to your unit, contact the Health, Safety, and Work-Life PHA

Coordinator, Chief Petty Officer Athan Anderson.CGPSC-RPM-1-Status@uscg.mil.

8. CAPT Rob Hanley, Chief, CG PSC-RPM, sends.

9. Internet release authorized.

New Periodic Health Assessment in Effect

The new Periodic Health Assessment (PHA) is now in effect (as of March 1, 2018). Due to the many changes, we've decided to describe them in greater detail.

The birth month requirement is going away (you just need to get a PHA every 12 months now), but if you're new to the Coast Guard, your first PHA is due within 12 months of finishing initial entry training.

Your PHA will always start the same way: by logging in to the PHA website (available on your Coast Guard workstation.) If you need assistance, a PHA job aid is available on the Portal (Coast Guard workstation required for access).

To complete your part of the PHA, click on "Start New Assessment" and then "My PHA". Answer all the questions, then electronically sign to finish your questionnaire. Once you're done, if you get your PHA from a Coast Guard or Department of Defense (DoD) clinic, call the clinic so you can get an appointment to have your PHA reviewed. If you get your PHA through the Reserve Health Readiness Program (RHRP), contact the Health Services Technician (HS) assigned to your unit, and he or she will pass on your PHA to RHRP and will request any other medical readiness services you need. If you don't know which HS is assigned to your unit, contact the Health, Safety, and Work-Life PHA Coordinator, Chief Petty Officer Athan Anderson.

Your HS will notify you once your medical record review is complete. RHRP will contact you within one business day to begin the appointment scheduling process.

All military personnel are now also required to complete a Mental Health Assessment (MHA) at least once a year. The MHA is included in the new PHA, but if you got the old PHA between Oct. 1, 2017 and March 1, 2018, you'll need a stand-alone MHA. First, log in and

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complete the online MHA (available on your Coast Guard workstation) by selecting the "Report a New Standalone DMHA" option. After you have completed your assessment, if you got the old PHA at a Coast Guard or DoD clinic, contact that clinic to schedule an MHA review before Sept. 30, 2018.

If you completed the old PHA through RHRP, contact RHRP to request an MHA review before September 30.

E-Mail Template for Job Data Corrections due to Reserve Orders Amendments

[Please use this template, it was updated on 3/14/2018, PPC TICKET FOR RESERVE ORDERS AMENDMENT \(1.91 KB\) \(CGPortal link, file will open a new e-mail message\)](#)

when contacting PPC to process Reserve Orders Amendment actions that require Job Data corrections. Use of the template will help to ensure the following information is provided:

INSTRUCTIONS: This is a template PPC Ticket designed for Reserve Orders Amendment actions that require Job Data corrections. Attach any necessary documentation and ensure valid signatures (i.e. Amendment memo, if not available in Direct Access). While there may be multiple fields shown below, only fill in the information that has been changed.

NOTE: There is some Direct Access terminology used below, as follows.

ROB: Reserve Orders Begin row in Job Data in DA.

ROE: Reserve Orders End row in Job Data in DA.

####

*Required field.

Greetings:

Request PPC action, as follows:

- *1. Member's Name:
- *2. Member's EMPLID:
- *3. Name and EMPLID of the SPO Auditor:

*4. Subject Orders: Trans ID _____ and type of orders _____ (i.e. ADT-AT, ADOS-AC, Title 14, Title 10), for MM/DD/YYYY to MM/DD/YYYY.

****ONLY FILL IN THE INFORMATION BELOW THAT HAS BEEN CHANGED****

5. SEQ 1 (Starts pay & allowances):

- A. Changed Position Number from _____ to _____.
- B. Changed Department Number from _____ to _____
- C. Changed Travel Estimated Date from _____ to _____
- D. Changed Travel Actual Date from _____ to _____

6. SEQ 2 (Reports member to duty station):

- A. Changed Position Number from _____ to _____.
- B. Changed Department Number from _____ to _____
- C. Changed Travel Estimated Date from _____ to _____
- D. Changed Travel Actual Date from _____ to _____

7. SEQ 98 (Departs member from duty station):

- A. Changed Position Number from _____ to _____.
- B. Changed Department Number from _____ to _____
- C. Changed Travel Estimated Date from _____ to _____
- D. Changed Travel Actual Date from _____ to _____.

8. SEQ 99 (Stops pay & allowances):

- A. Changed Position Number from _____ to _____.
- B. Changed Department Number from _____ to _____.
- C. Changed Travel Estimated Date from _____ to _____
- D. Changed Travel Actual Date from _____ to _____.

9. Action Requested (ONLY REQUEST THE ACTIONS THAT ARE NEEDED):

**** These items must be verified by the SPO after the amendment has been approved in Direct Access****

- A. ROB row needs Pay Group changed from "USCGR" to "USCG."

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B. "Use Pay Group Eligibility" checkbox needs to be unchecked.

C. "Eligibility Group" needs to be changed to (RSV LONG; RSV NOPAY; RSV SHORT1; RSV SHORT2; RSVTITLE10).

D. Job Data rows in between the ROB row and the ROE row need the Work Location to be changed to match the ROB row.

NOTE: The ROE row should not need any changes. The ROE Pay Group should be "USCGR" and Setting for "Use Pay Group Eligibility" should be check-marked, and this should usually be the member's permanent unit that member is returning to.

10. Remarks: (Example: On MM/DD/YYYY, SPO amended...Title 14 Reserve Orders to change the end date from MM/DD/YYYY to MM/DD/YYYY, and the Unit was changed from Base Nevermind to Base Awesome.)

Enlisted Rating Advancement Training System (ERATS) Winter 2018 Update

R 151424 MAR 18

FM COMCOGARD FORCECOM NORFOLK VA//FC-C//

TO ALCOAST

UNCLAS //N01430//

ACN 031/18

SUBJ: ENLISTED RATING ADVANCEMENT TRAINING SYSTEM (ERATS) WINTER 2018 UPDATE

A. Performance, Training, and Education Manual, COMDTINST M1500.10 (series)

1. Per REF (A), this ACN promulgates updated advancement policy and procedures related to the Enlisted Ratings Advancement Training System (ERATS) and provides updates to the Occupational Analysis (OA) schedule.

2. ERATS Policy and Procedure:

a. All Rating Advancement Tests (RAT) and Enlisted Professional Military Education (EPME) Advancement

Qualification Exams (AQE) remain suspended. All other advancement requirements, including completion of the Rating Performance Qualifications (RPQ) and EPME Performance Qualifications (EPQ) remain in effect. Command Cadre and Professional Development Coaches (PDC) are critical to ensuring the integrity of RPQ/EPQ sign-offs. PDCs remain responsible for ensuring performance standards are being met or exceeded when carrying out their role as signatories for RPQ/EPQs.

b. A Rating Competency Code is required for all grades. Members who previously earned a Rating Competency Code need not recertify unless required to do so as stated in the rating-specific guidance memo. Review Section I: Record of Changes while preparing for the Servicewide Exam to ensure you are using the most up-to-date references.

3. Rating Specific Notes. Specific changes and instructions for EPQs and RPQs are now captured in a semi-annual memo approved by FORCECOM Training Division. The approved memo is available on the ERATS SharePoint site located at <http://cglink.uscg.mil/320dcb99>.

4. Occupational Analyses (OA).

a. OA Process: Consists of a periodic review of all ranks of a specific rating. The process includes a rating-wide survey that is used to make critical decisions related to advancement and training requirements. Maximizing participation in the survey is critical to ensuring the real-time world of work for a rating is accurately captured.

b. OA Schedule for 2018. YN - January 2018; SK - March 2018; BM - May 2018; ET - July 2018; PA - September 2018; IS - November 2018. These timeframes are subject to change.

5. These changes will be reflected in the next revision of REF (A), which will be released within one year of this ACN.

6. Points of Contact:

a. OA POC: CWO Tim Lacey, Timothy.J.Lacey@uscg.mil

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b. ERATS POCs: LCDR Chris Brunclik,
Christopher.D.Brunclik@uscg.mil or MCPO Mike
O'Berry, Eugene.M.Oberry@uscg.mil.

c. Rating specific advancement requirements should be directed to the respective Rating Force Master Chief or PPC Customer Care at PPC-DG-CustomerCare@uscg.mil.

7. Released by RDML K. M. Smith, Commander, Force Readiness Command.

8. Internet release authorized.

Transfer Season 2018 - Options for Shipment of Household Goods

Household Goods - Ship by a government contractor or do it yourself? ALCOAST messages 100/18 and 101/18 provide vital information for members transferring, retiring, or separating in 2018.

The 2018 HHG transportation season will be upon us soon, and whether a member is performing a long distance permanent change of station (PCS) move or a funded local move, **HHG counseling is mandatory**. To ensure members are aware of their HHG transportation entitlements, commands should ensure that all members departing on PCS orders, or separating from the Coast Guard receive a printed copy of [ALCOAST 100/18; Transfer Season 2018 Household Goods \(HHG\) Shipping Information and Mandatory Customer Satisfaction Survey](#).

During peak season it may be difficult to secure a Government-contracted transportation service provider (TSP) that meets the desired packing, pick-up, and delivery dates of everyone affected. If a TSP cannot be contracted, or if a member prefers, they may perform a full or partial Personally Procured Movement (PPM) of Household Goods (HHGs) and receive the incentive payment of 95% of the government's constructed expense, not to exceed the authorized weight allowance as published in the Joint Travel Regulations. [ALCOAST 101/18](#) provides detailed information for those planning to use the Personally Procured Movements (PPM) of Household Goods program.

Reserve Supplemental Advancement Lists Updated

The advancement eligibility lists for [reserve supplemental advancements](#) have been updated to reflect requests processed prior to 02 March 2018.

The lists and other helpful information are available on the [Advancements branch CG Portal page](#).

TRICARE - Which Plan is Right for You? Comparing TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select

If you have health coverage with TRICARE, you can choose from a variety of plans, which provide you options in where and how you seek medical and dental services. Two major health programs include [TRICARE Prime](#) and [TRICARE Select](#). Both require enrollment and each offer the quality care you deserve. Learn more about the available plans, so you can choose the program or programs that are best for you and your family members.

TRICARE Prime

[TRICARE Prime](#) is a managed care option and a health maintenance organization (HMO)-like program. It generally features the use of military hospitals and clinics and reduces out-of-pocket costs for authorized care provided outside military hospitals and clinics by TRICARE network providers. TRICARE Prime is mandatory for active duty service members (ADSMs) and is an option for their family members and certain TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries located in Prime Service Areas Geographic areas in the U.S. where we offer TRICARE Prime. They ensure medical readiness of active duty by adding to the capability and capacity of military hospitals and clinics. Prime Service Areas were also built around the Base Realignment and Closure sites. (PSAs) in the U.S.

In geographical areas where TRICARE Prime is not offered, [TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members](#) may be available as an enrollment option for eligible active duty family members (ADFMs). In overseas locations, [TRICARE Overseas Program \(TOP\)](#)

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[Prime](#) and [TOP Prime Remote](#) are available to ADSMs and their command-sponsored family members.

The [US Family Health Plan](#) (USFHP) is an additional TRICARE Prime option available through networks of community-based, not-for-profit health care systems in six areas of the U.S. To enroll in [USFHP](#), you must live in one of the designated service areas.

Under a TRICARE Prime option, your health care is managed by an assigned primary care manager (PCM) and provided by a military or civilian network provider. Non-active duty enrolled beneficiaries will select or be assigned a PCM. TRICARE Prime PCMs may be:

- At a military hospital or clinic
- A civilian TRICARE network provider within a PSA
- A primary care provider in the USFHP, depending on your location and sponsor status

Whether you receive care in the civilian sector or at a military hospital or clinic will depend on your location and the capacity at nearby military facilities.

TRICARE Select

On Jan. 1, 2018, [TRICARE Select](#) replaced TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra. TRICARE Select is a self-managed, preferred-provider option for eligible beneficiaries (except ADSMs and [TRICARE For Life](#) beneficiaries) not enrolled in TRICARE Prime. TRICARE Select allows you to choose your own TRICARE-authorized provider (An authorized provider is any individual, institution/organization, or supplier that is licensed by a state, accredited by national organization, or meets other standards of the medical community, and is certified to provide benefits under TRICARE.) There are two types of TRICARE-authorized providers: Network and Non-Network. and manage your own health care.

Beneficiaries may receive enhanced TRICARE Select benefits from any TRICARE-authorized provider without a referral. You'll have lower out-of-pocket costs if care is provided by a TRICARE-authorized network provider. Some services require prior authorization. You can also receive certain services from non-network, TRICARE-authorized providers, but will pay higher cost sharing amounts for out-of-network care. TRICARE won't reimburse you for care received from non-authorized, non-network providers.

Under a TRICARE Select option, you pay a fixed fee for care for most services from a TRICARE network provider instead of paying a percentage of the allowable charge (The maximum amount TRICARE pays for each procedure or service. This is tied by law to Medicare's allowable charges.). As mentioned above, using a non-network, TRICARE-authorized provider results in both a higher deductible and out-of-pocket costs. In overseas locations, [TOP Select](#) is available to eligible ADFMs not enrolled in TOP Prime and to retirees and their family members. Where the TRICARE network has not been established in an overseas location, TRICARE Select beneficiaries who receive medically necessary (To be medically necessary means it is appropriate, reasonable, and adequate for your condition.) covered services from a non-network, TRICARE-authorized provider will be subject to cost-sharing amounts applicable to out-of-network care.

Take command of your health by making informed decisions about your TRICARE benefit. Learn more about your [TRICARE options](#).

[Update to Enlisted Evaluation System Procedures Manual, PSCINST M1611.2A](#)

ALCGPSC 052/18

SUBJ: UPDATE TO PSCINST 1611.2A

A. [Enlisted Evaluation System Procedures Manual, PSCINST 1611.2A](#)

1. Based on continuous review of reference (A), changes to correct and clarify the Enlisted Employee Review Rating Chain (Table 2-2) were deemed necessary. These

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changes involve correcting footnotes six and seven and adjusting format of footnote placement within the table.

2. No paper distribution will be made of this Change.

Reference (A) is available on the PSC Instructions Page:

<https://cg.portal.uscg.mil/units/psc/Lists/PSC%20Instructions/AllItems.aspx>

3. For general questions or concerns regarding

reference (A), contact ARL-SMB-CGPSC-EPM-

Evaluations@uscg.mil.

4. Released by: RDML M. T. Bell, Jr., Commander, CG Personnel Service Center. The Service Center for our Most Important Resources – Our People.

5. Internet release authorized.

Got Orders? Driving more than 400 miles? You must complete a TRiPS assessment

Travel season is fast approaching. Whether you will be traveling by motor vehicle on vacation or traveling on PCS orders, prepare early to have a safe journey. In an effort to assist military members and civilian employees in their travel plans, the Department of Defense provides a travel planning tool known as the Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS). TRiPS is an on-line, automated risk assessment tool developed to help mitigate risk and reduce fatalities among personnel driving a private motor vehicle or motorcycle outside their local area.

A TRiPS assessment is now required by the **Safety and Environmental Health Manual, COMDINST 5100.47A (Para. 16.B.14)**, for members on permanent change of station orders traveling more than 400 miles. These members are required to complete an assessment and have their supervisor review and approve it before travel commences. Members can access TRiPS

at <https://trips.safety.army.mil/coastguard/>. In addition, the **USCG HSWL SC Motor Vehicle and Motorcycle pages** have a great deal of reference information available that may help with your trip or with unit training needs.

Did you know a TRiPS assessment is REQUIRED for member traveling more than 400 miles on PCS orders?

If your travel doesn't require an assessment, it is still a

good idea to take a few minutes to evaluate the risks of a trip and review a few safety tips. If you are traveling more than 350 miles, it is highly recommended.

A PCS move can be stressful and tempt you to push your limits. More than one member has lost their life by making poor decisions in order to accomplish a transfer. In the last five years, the CG has lost 23 members to motor vehicle accidents. Almost half occurred during hours of darkness and most of those in the late night/early morning hours. Fatigue plays a huge role in these accidents. Plan YOUR trip so you can avoid this risk factor.

A TRiPS assessment will reinforce common sense driving principles such as: staying alert, alcohol consumption, getting enough sleep, and taking adequate breaks. In addition, it will provide some safety tips that you may not have considered. A discussion with your supervisor may also give you new insights. With plenty of planning, a long trip (or a short one) can be made less stressful and much safer. Now buckle up and enjoy the beautiful and diverse scenery our country offers!

Reserve Bonus Programs and Special Incentive Pay

[ALCOAST message 108/18](#) announces eligibility and amounts paid for SELRES Enlistment and Affiliation bonuses as authorized by the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act. It also announces the reinstatement of Designated Unit Pay (DUP), formerly known as High Priority Unit Pay.

CG Mutual Assistance Reimbursement Program for Child Care During PCS

CGMA has implemented a new program to provide financial assistance to active duty and ADOS reserve members who are faced with increased out of pocket costs subsequent to PCS orders which require a move of HHG. The program provides for reimbursement of child care costs while packing or unpacking or during other times while attending to relocation responsibilities. [See ALCOAST message 112/18 for more information.](#)

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Defense Travel Management Office Allowances Update

Defense Travel Management Office, March 28, 2018 — The Defense Travel Management Office has updated the following information for 01 April 2018:

- OCONUS Non-Foreign and Foreign Per Diem Rates
- Overseas Housing Allowances (OHA)
- Overseas Cost of Living Allowances (COLA)
- Joint Travel Regulations (JTR) and Appendices (Available on or about 01 April)

To access this information, visit the [DTMO Website](#).

Active Duty? Enroll to Continue TRICARE Coverage After Retirement

Retiring from active duty, whether a medical retirement or a regular retirement, is a significant [life event](#). You should know before you retire which TRICARE programs best suit your and your family's needs. Once you retire, you'll only have 90 days from your retirement date to [enroll in a TRICARE plan](#) to continue TRICARE coverage. Otherwise, you will have no TRICARE purchased care coverage and will only be able to access care at military hospitals and clinics on a space-available basis.

If you retire from active duty and are under age 65, you can choose either [TRICARE Prime](#) (where available) or [TRICARE Select](#) (available worldwide). You should decide before you retire which one best suits your and your family's needs.

You may reenroll in TRICARE Prime if you live in a Prime Service Area (PSA) or live within 100 miles of an available primary care manager and waive your drive-time access standards. You can see if you live in a PSA by using the [TRICARE Plan Finder](#).

If you choose not to reenroll in TRICARE Prime or don't live in a PSA, then you may enroll in TRICARE Select. With TRICARE Select, you can see any TRICARE authorized provider you choose, but you save money when you use TRICARE network providers. Referrals are

not required for most health care services, but some services require prior authorization from your TRICARE regional contractor. [An authorized provider is any individual, institution/organization, or supplier that is licensed by a state, accredited by national organization, or meets other standards of the medical community, and is certified to provide benefits under TRICARE.](#) There are two types of TRICARE-authorized providers: [Network and Non-Network](#). you choose, but you save money when you use TRICARE network providers. Referrals are not required for most health care services, but some services require prior authorization from your TRICARE regional contractor.

If you live overseas, you may seek coverage under [TRICARE Overseas Program \(TOP\) Select](#). TOP Prime and TOP Prime Remote options are not available after retirement.

If you or a family member are, or become, entitled to premium-free Medicare Part A after your retirement, you or they will lose TRICARE coverage unless enrolled in Medicare Part B. With Medicare parts A and B, you or they will have coverage under [TRICARE For Life](#).

For more information on how to enroll in a TRICARE plan, visit [Enroll or Purchase a Plan](#) on the TRICARE website. Learn more about TRICARE plans during retirement in the [Retiring from Active Duty Brochure](#) (.PDF).

TRICARE and You: Changes to the Prime Travel Benefit Program

Starting on April 1, 2018, there will be changes to the Prime Travel Benefit (PTB) program.

PTB reimburses your travel expenses when your primary care manager (PCM) refers you for medically necessary, non-emergency care; the specialty care provider is more than 100 miles one-way from your PCM's office; and there is no other specialty care provider within 100 miles. To be eligible for PTB, beneficiaries must be either an active duty family member, a retired service member, or a family member of a retired service member.

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The Coast Guard will no longer administer the PTB program after April 1. The program will transition to the Defense Health Agency (DHA), which currently manages the Department of Defense PTB program. Your entitlement will not be impacted by this change, however there will be revisions in the procedure for requesting reimbursement for medical appointment travel.

The new contact number for the DHA Tricare PTB is: 1-844-204-9351. All requests for travel scheduled after April 1, 2018 must be sent to dha.tricareptb@mail.mil.

Coast Guard Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinators (BCAC) are available to answer your questions. The BCACs can be reached at 1-800-9HBA-HBA (800-942-2422).

Direct Access Competency Dictionary Update

The [Direct Access Competency Dictionary \(file in MS Excel format\)](#) (a spreadsheet which shows all authorized competency codes and descriptions) has been updated by Commandant (CG-1B-1).

Changes made since last update (28 February 2018) are hi-lighted in blue text on the spreadsheet.

- 01 Competencies created
- 01 Competencies modified (ATNNC Requirements)
- 01 Competencies inactivated

Government Travel Charge Card Newsletter

Below you will find the link to the March 2018 GTCC newsletter. Please share this information as widely as possible with your travelers, respective commands, P&A shops, SPOs, and AOs as it includes important information that may impact travel cards and travel arrangements.

https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Portals/10/CG-1/psc/bops/GovTrvl/March_2018_GTCC_Newsletter.pdf

This month's edition contains the following useful travel and travel card information:

Travel Cards and PCS

Close a Travel Card Account

Travel Card Renewals and Address Updates

EER/OER Input

Plus so much more good to know information.

You can check out past articles by searching the newsletter index found

at https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Portals/10/CG-1/psc/bops/GovTrvl/GTCC-TEMP/GTCC_Newsletter_Index.xlsx

If you have a suggestion and would like to write an article for the newsletter, please let us know. Our ideas come from your questions and concerns.

Let us know if you have any questions and remember...ALWAYS protect PII.

Thank you,

Ms. E. Carlene Curry

USCG Gov't Travel Card Programs

Personnel Service Center-Business Operations

US COAST GUARD STOP 7200

[2703 Martin Luther King JR AVE SE](#)

[Washington DC 20593-7200](#)