

Housing Resources Available to Service Members

The Department of Homeland Security and the Defense Department are committed to ensuring service members and their families have access to affordable, quality housing near their duty station, as well as the time to move and find housing. Assist us to make sure that our people know about the resources available to help them through any challenges they might face when looking for a place to live either on or off the installation.

Military Housing Offices

Installation MHOs track the availability of on-base and off-base housing and rental prices. Housing availability information is gathered through oversight of Military Housing Privatization Initiative and associated housing, tracking of the off-base housing market, relationships with landlords and demand from service members who contact the MHO.

MHO services

Installation MHOs also provide housing referral services to assist inbound personnel in finding housing, on or off the installation. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Referral to area landlords
- Homes.mil website and other online resources
- Assistance with rental negotiations and review of leases
- At some installations, rental partnership agreements with landlords who provide unadvertised rental discounts to service members
- Inspections for suitability based on environmental, health and safety considerations
- Assistance for service members with family members who require accessible housing
- Counseling and preliminary inquiry to validate housing discrimination complaints

Leave and liberty policy and procedures related to house hunting

Service members may request paid time off to find and move into long-term housing. If granted by their commanders, available options include:

- Up to 10 days administrative absence or “house-hunting leave,” authorized in conjunction with a PCS
- Regular liberty (up to three days) and/or special liberty (up to four days), authorized in conjunction with a PCS or when moving from one home to another during a tour of duty
- Regular chargeable leave when other options are not available or are insufficient, authorized in conjunction with a PCS or when moving from one home to another during a tour of duty

[Find more details in DOD Instruction 1327.06, “Leave and Liberty Policy and Procedures.”](#)

Preparing for transitions — start early

Encourage service members and their families to start early. They should contact their installation’s MHO to learn about the on-base housing wait list and community housing options

as soon as they receive their PCS orders, or any time they need housing assistance at their current or next duty station.

Service members can also take advantage of public websites that list housing for sale/rent in the community where they are planning to move. These websites can help with finding affordable housing that meets their family's needs, researching local schools for enrollment information, and preparing their families for the transition.