



## FLAG VOICE #561

### Temporary BAH Rate Increase

21 September 2021

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Colleagues, I am happy to report the Secretary of Defense has approved a temporary Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) increase to 56 Military Housing Areas (MHAs) across the United States. Of these, there are 5 MHAs receiving a 20% increase, 11 MHAs receiving a 15% increase, and 40 MHAs receiving a 10% increase over the current 2021 BAH rates. These temporary rates are effective from 01 October 2021 to 31 December 2021, at which time they will be superseded by the promulgation of BAH rates for CY22. The MHAs and rates as well as the process for requesting this temp increase can be viewed at: [Military Personnel Policy \(CG-133\) | U.S. Coast Guard \(uscg.mil\)](#).

These temporary changes were made as a result of COVID-19 volatility felt in the rental housing market. Military personnel saw rental availabilities and costs fluctuate due to a variety of drivers over the course of the past year. These temporary BAH increases are expected to offset larger than anticipated out-of-pocket costs for our members in the MHAs most affected by this volatility.

This is not a blanket increase; to apply for the temporary increase, a member will need to submit an application as well as certify that their increased housing costs are related to COVID-19 and exceed their regular authorized BAH. There is some flexibility though; if a member was paying more in rent and utilities than their authorized BAH rate prior to the pandemic, and can demonstrate with housing and utility records an additional increase in housing expenses over this pre-COVID-19 housing cost, the increased temporary BAH rate may be authorized from date of increased expense (but not before 1 Oct 2021) through 31 Dec 2021.

A variety of communications products are forthcoming to help inform our people and your staffs. Given the short turnaround between now and the first day of eligibility for these rates, I have verified that payments of approved increases will be grandfathered upon receipt and approval of an application.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric C. Jones".

Eric C. Jones

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard  
Assistant Commandant for Human Resources