

MILPERSMAN 7220-120

FAMILY SEPARATION ALLOWANCE (FSA)

Responsible Office	OPNAV (N130)	Phone:	DSN	225-5565
			COM	(703) 614-5565
			FAX	225-3311

NAVPERSCOM CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER	Phone: Toll Free	1-866-U ASK NPC
------------------------------------	------------------	-----------------

References	(a) DoD 7000.14-R, DOD Financial Management Regulation, Volume 7A, Military Pay Policy and Procedures Active Duty and Reserve Pay (b) 37 U.S.C. 427 (c) NAVSO P-6034, Joint Federal Travel Regulations, Volume 1, Uniformed Service Members
-------------------	---

1. **Conditions of Entitlement.** The conditions, types, and purpose of entitlement to Family Separation Allowance (FSA) are contained in reference (a), chapter 27; however, this article addresses guidance specific to the Navy concerning entitlement to FSA incident to overhaul and/or unaccompanied tours. Additionally, specific guidance on dual payment for dual military couples, per reference (b), is offered. Finally, information regarding waiver submission for unusual family or operational circumstances is provided.

2. **Authorization of FSA Incident to Overhaul.** Members serving in any paygrade as a member with dependents are authorized payment of FSA-R (Restricted) in situations where the home port of a vessel has changed incident to overhaul and member elects to leave dependents at the present location when member's separation exceeds 30 days beyond the effective date of home port change.

3. **Definition of "Present Location".** The "actual location" of dependents, which may be a previously elected "designated location," other than ship's home port as authorized for personnel assigned to units designated "unusually arduous" sea duty.

4. **Policy Intent for FSA Incident to Overhaul.** The intent of this policy is to provide an equitable allowance to members when

overriding circumstances cause members to leave their dependents at present location.

5. **Denial of Change of Home Port Certificate.** A member who has dependents, and is otherwise eligible for a change of home port certificate, will not be issued a change of home port certificate if the member elects to maintain his/her household at the present location rather than relocate it to the new home port.

6. **Counseling by Commanding Officer (CO).** Before this action is taken, the CO will counsel the member to explain the impact of the member's decision.

7. **Recording Member's Decision.** If the member elects to maintain the member's household at the present location, it will be entered in the member's service record, NAVPERS 1070/613 (Rev. 7-06), Administrative Remarks, for enlisted personnel; and by memorandum for officers. The entry used for the service record is as follows:

"In consideration of all factors involved, I hereby elect to maintain my household at its present location and decline a change of home port certificate which would allow me to relocate my household incident to home port change for overhaul of (enter name of ship) from (enter previous home port) to (enter new home port) announced by Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) (enter date-time-group of CNO message which issued home port change). I understand that this election is irrevocable and that I will not be entitled to relocate my household at Government expense until my next permanent change of station (PCS) or until post-overhaul home port of (USS) is issued by CNO."

8. **FSA-R Accrual Effective Date.** FSA-R will accrue from the date members elect not to move their dependents at Government expense or begin a separation from their family (whichever is later) and cannot be authorized retroactively.

9. **Authorization of FSA Incident to Members Assigned to Unaccompanied Tours**

a. Members who elect to serve unaccompanied tours in areas to which the movement of their dependents is authorized at

government expense, are not entitled to FSA-R. Entitlement to

- Family Separation Housing (FSH-O) (Overseas Housing Allowance), **or**
- Family Separation Housing (FSH-B) (Basic Allowance for Housing),

remains unaffected, per reference (c), para. U10408.

b. Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) has authorized continuing entitlement to FSA-R for members with dependents who are serving unaccompanied tours and

(1) are permanently assigned to designated hostile fire or imminent danger areas;

(2) are permanently assigned to forward deployed prepositioning unit;

(3) whose dependent(s) have documented medical conditions preventing their assignment overseas with the member;

(4) who are permanently assigned to overseas locations, and are required to accept an unaccompanied tour based on number of dependents; or

(5) who are married to other servicemembers and who are separated by military orders either in continental United States (CONUS) or outside continental United States (OCONUS).

10. Allowance for Married Couples with Dependents

a. Per reference (b), effective 1 October 08, a married couple, both of whom are members of the uniformed services with dependents, may each receive a full FSA monthly allowance if the following conditions are met:

(1) They are simultaneously assigned to duties that would warrant the payment of FSA-R, FSA-S (Ship), or FSA-T (Temporary), per reference (a), chapter 27.

(2) The members resided together with their dependents immediately before their assignments.

b. Both shall continue to receive FSA until one of the members is no longer assigned to duties described in

paragraph 10a(1). Upon expiration of the additional allowance, the remaining member will continue to receive FSA while assigned to qualifying duty.

11. **Waivers in Unusual Family or Operational Circumstances.**

Requests for waivers due to unusual family or operational circumstances not covered above may be forwarded to Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV (N130)) for consideration. Waivers will not be authorized for essentially personal reasons (spousal employment, school, stability, etc.).