

## **11 June 2025 Authorized Departure (Voluntary/Optional) FAQ Sheet**

### **Q. What is authorized departure?**

A. An authorized departure is the voluntary departure of command-sponsored military and civilian employee dependents, authorized at government expense with return also at government expense. This authorizes the voluntary departure for dependents wishing to depart Manama, Bahrain.

### **Q. Is this mandatory or can dependents elect to remain?**

A. No, this is only a voluntary departure and dependents may elect to remain at Manama, Bahrain.

### **Q. Is this a Noncombatant Evacuation Operation (NEO)?**

A. **NO**, this is a voluntary departure of dependents who wish to leave Manama, Bahrain, due to the current environment.

### **Q. Where can we go during this voluntary departure?**

A. You may choose any of the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, or any non-foreign areas which include U.S. territories, U.S. possessions, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Military services will work with volunteering families to determine the location that best suits the needs of the family members. This will be considered your safe haven location.

### **Q. What is a Safe Haven?**

A. A Safe Haven is a location to which a dependent is sent.

### **Q. Who is eligible for Authorized Departure travel from Manama, Bahrain?**

A. DoD Sponsored dependents of an active duty service member(s) and DoD employees are eligible. They can volunteer and should notify their sponsor. The sponsor can contact the NAVCENT N1 distro at: [m-ba-cusnc-n1-addistro@us.navy.mil](mailto:m-ba-cusnc-n1-addistro@us.navy.mil) as the primary point of contact. If you do not receive a response within 4 hours, please feel free to contact us via phone. For emergencies, contact us via phone directly. Phone number: Commercial: 011-973-1785-9898, DSN: (318) 439-9898 Phone number: Commercial: 011-973-1785-6230, DSN: (318) 439-6230.

### **Q. What allowances do Active Duty dependents and DoD Civilian dependents receive at your chosen safe haven?**

A. You will be eligible for locality per diem for up to 180 consecutive days. You will need to submit a travel claim through your sponsor to be reimbursed every 30 days. The Overseas Cost of Living Allowance (OCOLA) will be adjusted and reduced by approximately \$4 per day at the current exchange rate, starting from the 31st day after your departure.

Table 6-17. Safe Haven Allowances			
Duration at Safe Haven		12 Years of Age or Older	Less than 12 Years of Age
1	First 30 Days	A maximum of 100 percent of the locality per diem rate for the area.	A maximum of 50 percent of the locality per diem rate for the area.
2	31-180 Days	Up to 60 percent of the locality per diem rate for the area.	Up to 30 percent of the locality per diem rate for the area.

**Q. Are my pets authorized transportation, quarantine, and per diem?**

A. Up to two household pets (defined as a cat or dog) to and from safe haven or designated place if he or she currently owns them at the evacuated foreign Permanent Duty Station (PDS) are authorized transportation. If transported and quarantined at personal expense, then reimbursement is limited to the constructed cost that Government would have incurred. Contact the base vet for all required documents. Pets are NOT authorized per diem. NSA Vetclinic COMM: 973-1785-4295, DSN: 318-439-4295 Further details:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel>

*Effective 1 January 2024, reimbursement not to exceed \$2,000.*

**Q. How does this apply to dual military or single parents?**

A. If dual military sponsors have children; one parent/guardian is authorized to escort children to the departure location. The sponsor will be required to return. Both sponsors will be required to have a plan in place for the dependent at the safe haven location prior to executing.

**Q. If pregnant, can I travel?**

A. Yes, if approved by appropriate medical personnel. In some cases a medical evacuation could apply. Coordinate with your sponsor and primary care manager.

**Q. If I do not volunteer today can I volunteer at a later date?**

A. Yes, family members can volunteer as long as the authorized departure remains in effect. Your sponsor will be up to date on how long the authorized departure will be in effect. Tickets are issued on a first come, first served basis.

**Q. If I do not depart, will the commissary, exchange, and other base services remain available to me?**

A. If a command-sponsored dependent chooses to remain at the duty station and retains their DoD dependent identification card, they will still have access to the commissary, exchange and related base services if open.

**Q. Once our family makes the decision to leave under the Authorized Departure, how quickly will they be ticketed through NAVPTO?**

A. We are anticipating a short turn around on tickets issuance. Processing time will be based on the amount of volume received through the NAVCENT N1 shop and NAVPTO. In the meantime, please make sure you are utilizing the "Departure Preparation Checklist" to make sure you have everything in order. This document is posted on the Official NAVCENT Website: <https://www.cusnc.navy.mil/Documents/Travel-Documents/>.

**Q. Can a family procure their own commercial tickets to leave Bahrain without going through NAVPTO?**

A. Families are encouraged NOT to procure own commercial tickets. Travel must be approved in advance and coordinated by military travel agencies. Ticketing will be coordinated through Navy Passenger Transportation Office (NAVPTO) Bahrain. Reimbursement for personally procured tickets is NOT guaranteed.

**Q. Is there a place to get all the required documents for the Authorized Departure?**

A. Yes. Sponsors will be responsible for communicating with the NAVCENT N1 team ([m-ba-cusnc-n1-addistro@us.navy.mil](mailto:m-ba-cusnc-n1-addistro@us.navy.mil)) and providing all documents which can be found here: <https://www.cusnc.navy.mil/Documents/Travel-Documents/>

**Q. When can we return to Manama, Bahrain?**

A. You can return at any time, but for your safety, we recommend waiting until the "Authorized Departure" status has been lifted. Additionally, you will be funded for Authorized Departure **only once**. Please coordinate with your sponsor to stay updated on this.

**Q. Process to return to Manama, Bahrain?**

A. Your sponsor should contact the N1 distro via email to initiate the process.

**Q. Any further information from the DoDEA School whether virtual/remote learning is a possibility?**

A. No further information at the moment. Decision for virtual/remote learning will be coming from the Region Director/HQ. POC is the School Liaison. Contact the School Liaison directly for more information.

**Q. Will returning families have access to medical care?**

A. Dependents who are enrolled in the TRICARE program will retain their eligibility.

**Q. When do we file reimbursement for per diem?**

A. Reimbursement will be process through your sponsor every 30 days. Provide your sponsor lodging receipts every 30 days for reimbursement application.

**Q. My active duty sponsor has PCS orders. Can we travel in advance using his/her PCS orders?**

A. Yes, your sponsor may request Advance Dependent Travel (ADT) if eligibility requirements are met. Application submission to OPNAV N130 via your sponsor's current Command. Eligibility Requirements for ADT: - Command is conducting a Homeport Change - Dependent are enrolled in Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) - Dependent caring for an immediate family member with chronic or long term illness - Ultimate OCONUS command is deployed at the time of Permanent Change of Station - School-age children (grades K-12) enrolled in school at the time of PCS - Spouse employment (define as full-time employment) - Orders have intermediate stops in route to the Ultimate PDS

**Q. Is my sponsor allowed to receive dual housing entitlement for Authorized Departure and/or Advance Dependent Travel?**

A. No. Authorized Departure will be in per diem entitlements for the designated safe haven locality rate. per diem rate and calculator can be found on the Official NAVCENT Website. Advance Dependent Travel only authorizes one housing entitlement as determined by Secretarial Process.

**Q. Can I travel to the safe haven with my dependents?**

A. No. Mission essential personnel need to remain in theater unless the dependent is unable to travel alone.

**Q. What is the reference for all this?**

A. The Joint Travel Regulations Chapter 6, which can be found here:

<https://www.travel.dod.mil/Policy-Regulations/Joint-Travel-Regulations/>