**Direction to Return to Bahrain FAQ Sheet**

**GENERAL TRAVEL**

**Q. How do I return to Bahrain?**

A. **For dependents of military members**, your military sponsor must submit your passenger reservation request (PRR) and DD-884 (Application for Transportation of Dependents) to the NAVCENT N1 Distro (m-ba-cusnc-n1-addistro@us.navy.mil) **no later than July 31st, 2025.** Your earliest departure date (EDD) should be **no later than August 1st**, **2025**

A. **For dependents of GS/ Civilian personnel**, your flights can be booked either through Command DTS or through the NAVCENT N1 Distro (NAVCENT N1 will require the Command Line of Accounting from the Command to assist NAVPTO submission for flights). GS/Civilian personnel should check with their Command’s Admin department to determine how flights should be booked.

**Q. Will I stop receiving my safe haven per diem entitlements/lodging allowances?**

A. Yes. Generally, **allowances for dependents of military members will end on July 31st, 2025**. However, if you submit your paperwork by July 31st, request a flight no later than August 1st, and the flight you receive is scheduled to depart after August 1st, you will continue to receive allowances until your scheduled flight. For example, if you submit paperwork on July 30th, request a flight for August 1st, and are booked on a flight that departs August 3rd, your allowances will continue until you land in Bahrain. Note: this does not apply if you change the date of your booked flight for personal convenience.

**Q. What if I cannot return to Bahrain by August 1st, 2025, and I need to set a later EDD?**

A. You may set your EDD as late as September 15th, 2025. Your plane ticket will still be paid for, but allowances for dependents of military members will end on July 31st, 2025.

**Q. What if I request to leave after September 15th, 2025?**

A. If you need to return after September 15th, please email the NAVCENT N1 distro (m-ba-cusnc-n1-addistro@us.navy.mil) so we can work through your individual situation.

**Q. When do the safe haven allowances for civilian employees terminate under the current authorized departure authority?**

A. Based upon current information and from the Navy's perspective, an authorizing/approving official may appropriately determine that DoD civilian employees are entitled to safe haven allowances through July 21, 2025 for their evacuated dependents who are at a safe haven location. While dependents are expected to depart the safe haven location expeditiously, an appropriate grace period necessary to arrange return travel to the USCENTCOM AOR may be authorized, normally not to exceed ten days, provided the basis for such grace period is justified on the employee’s travel voucher. Nevertheless, entitlement to allowances likely terminates on or before July 31, 2025. Please be advised that DFAS may take an alternative position when processing the safe have allowance claims.

**Q. What if I am already booked on a flight that is scheduled to return to Bahrain after July 31st, 2025?**

A. **For dependents of military members**, you have two options:

 1) You may keep the flight you have, but your allowances will expire on July 31st, 2025.

 2) You may submit a new PRR before July 31st, 2025, and your allowances will be based on the newly-booked itinerary.

A. **For dependents of GS/ Civilian personnel**, entitlements are governed by the Department of State Standardized Regulations Chapter 600. You are encouraged to submit a PRR for new flights that arrive no later than July 31st, 2025. This will demonstrate your intent to return expeditiously, and any further delay was not by choice. Allowances for dependents of civilian employees end on the earliest of the following dates: (a) date the evacuee commences travel under an assignment order to another duty station outside of the evacuation area; (b) effective date of transfer when the employee is already at the post to which transferred; (c) date of separation; (d) date specified by the head of the agency; (e) date specified by the Secretary of State; (f) 180 days after the evacuation order is issued; or (g) date the evacuee commences return travel. [See DSSR 600, Par. 635.] If justified, an appropriate grace period of up to 10 days may be granted for the continued entitlement to allowances. Generally, if you request a travel date after the 10-day grace period, you will be entitled to a return flight purchased by the government, but will not receive allowances during the grace period. For individual questions related to civilian dependent entitlements, please contact the NAVCENT General Counsel, Mr. Patrick Healy, at Patrick.d.healy.civ@us.navy.mil.

**Q. What if my sponsor previously submitted a request for us to return but they have not received an itinerary?**

A. **For dependents of military members**, your sponsor must submit a new PRR and DD-884 **no later than July 31st, 2025** with an earliest departure date (EDD) of **no later than August 1st**, **2025** to the NAVCENT N1 distro (m-ba-cusnc-n1-addistro@us.navy.mil). If it has been more than 48 hours since submission and you have not received a response, please contact NAVCENT N1 at the distro above.

A. **For dependents of GS/ Civilian personnel**, please contact your command’s Admin department if you have requested travel and not yet received an itinerary.

**Q. What if an emergency arises and I have to reschedule my flight with SATO?**

A. In that case, your allowances will stop on either the date of your original booked flight, or the date you land in Bahrain, whichever is sooner.

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

A. Families are NOT encouraged to procure their own commercial tickets. Travel must be approved in advance and coordinated by military travel agencies to ensure reimbursement. Ticketing will be coordinated through Navy Passenger Transportation Office (NAVPTO) Bahrain. If you procure your own tickets, reimbursement is NOT guaranteed.

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

A. Your military sponsor will submit your travel claim every 30 days or following your arrival in Bahrain through their respective Command Pay and Personnel Administrators (CPPAs). Be sure to provide your sponsor with your lodging receipts and required documents (For example: a copy of your orders, itinerary, receipts from all transportation expenses, credit card statement showing a foreign currency conversion, Evacuation Lodging Certification, etc.).

**Q. If I’m pregnant, can I travel?**

A. Yes, if approved by appropriate medical personnel. Coordinate with your sponsor and primary care manager. If you have a medical reason you cannot return, please contact the NAVCENT N1 distro so that we can assist you and your sponsor with developing a plan via your sponsor’s chain of command.

**Q. I requested an exception to policy (ETP) for an alternate safe haven—what is the status of that request**?

A. The Undersecretary of Defense is evaluating NAVCENT’s request for an ETP in order to provide allowances for dependents at alternate safe havens. Your military sponsor should submit a new PRR and DD-884 to the NAVCENT N1 Distro (m-ba-cusnc-n1-addistro@us.navy.mil), as well as any questions about the ETP process.

**Q. How do I apply for reimbursement if my dependents have already self-funded their return?**

A. Please send an email to the NAVCENT N1 distro (m-ba-cusnc-n1-addistro@us.navy.mil) with the details of the dependent travel (number of passengers, date(s) of travel, cost of travel, etc.). Requests for reimbursement for personally-procured tickets will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

**Q. If my dependents need to stay CONUS longer than the September deadline, will they receive a basic housing allowance (BAH)?**

A. Dependents of military members can only receive BAH if the service member is on unaccompanied orders to Bahrain. Please refer specific questions to the NAVCENT N1 distro (m-ba-cusnc-n1-addistro@us.navy.mil).

**Q. If a sponsor is on accompanied orders, can they switch to unaccompanied orders so their dependents can remain CONUS and receive BAH?**

A. Changing orders from accompanied to unaccompanied requires the member to submit an “early return of dependents” request via BOL (NAVCENT is not the approval authority for “early return of dependent” requests). Please refer specific questions to the NAVCENT N1 distro (m-ba-cusnc-n1-addistro@us.navy.mil).

**Q. What if my military sponsor executed a PCS to Bahrain, but their dependents delayed PCS because of the authorized departure order?**

A. Please have your sponsor contact the NAVCENT N1 distro (m-ba-cusnc-n1-addistro@us.navy.mil ) with all relevant details, to include the sponsor’s name, dependent(s) name(s), and desired travel dates.

**Q. Do travel vouchers need to be submitted by July 31st, 2025, in order to receive reimbursement?**

A. No. You are only required to submit your PRR and DD-884 by July 31st. Your sponsor will submit your travel voucher within five business days after your return to Bahrain.

**Q. Does this guidance apply to all active duty dependents or is it Navy-specific guidance?**

A. This guidance applies to all dependents of military and GS/Civilian personnel who departed under the Authorized Departure order.

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

A. The Joint Travel Regulations Chapter 6, which can be found here: https://media.defense.gov/2022/Jan/04/2002917147/-1/-1/0/JTR.PDF (click Chapter 6 link at top of document).

**Q. I am a dependent of a civilian - What if I set my EDD within the grace period, but the military schedules me for a flight beyond that date?**

A. Evacuees who seek to travel within the grace period but are booked on a flight after the grace period ends may have a reasonable justification for an approving official to consider providing allowances throughout the 10-day grace period.

**Q. Will there be another town hall?**

A. Yes, the next town hall is schedule for July 29, at 1700 and can be accessed at: [https://dod.teams.microsoft.us/l/meetup-join/19%3adod%3ameeting\_816c0fe590024b1bb3193d79ef2a37ad%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e3333e00-c877-4b87-b6ad-45e942de1750%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%223dc84e0a-193d-4d00-adf7-5116e2e07f32%22%7d](https://dod.teams.microsoft.us/l/meetup-join/19%3Adod%3Ameeting_816c0fe590024b1bb3193d79ef2a37ad%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e3333e00-c877-4b87-b6ad-45e942de1750%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%223dc84e0a-193d-4d00-adf7-5116e2e07f32%22%7d)

\*\*\*\*(CONTINUE BELOW FOR INFORMATION ON TRAVELING WITH PETS)\*\*\*

**TRAVELING WITH PETS**

**Q. Can I return to Bahrain with my pet?**

A. NAVCENT is working on a military aircraft option for dependents with pets. If a military option is not provided, dependents (via their sponsor) can organize pet shipment through a private company and file for reimbursement. Shippers will need to adhere to the rules for importing and exporting the pet to and from Bahrain. Failure to do so may result in denial of your pet’s entry to Bahrain. If a military option is provided, dependents (via their sponsor) can still organize private shipment of their pet; however, they will not be reimbursed.

**Q. What is the “military option” if I am returning with my pet.**

A. NAVCENT is working to schedule a military aircraft flight from Norfolk to Bahrain to transport returning pets and their owners. If it is scheduled, dependents will travel from their safe haven locations to the military aircraft departure location, before follow-on travel to Bahrain.

**Q. If the command coordinates a military flight for dependents with pets, will I get reimbursed for my travel to the MILAIR departure location?**

A. Yes, if the MILAIR option is available, you will be provide travel from your safe haven location to the military aircraft departure location. We will provide specific travel guidance (e.g. rental car reimbursement, mileage, per diem, etc.) if flight becomes available.

**Q. How will I find out if a military flight for dependents with pets becomes available?**

A. Your military sponsor will be notified via the NAVCENT All Personnel distro. It is imperative that you submit the PRR and DD-884 as soon as possible, including information about your pet(s), so the command move forward as expeditiously as possible.

**Q. What if I am already booked on a rotator flight with my pet(s) that is supposed to arrive later than August 1st, 2025?**

A. Email the NAVCENT N1 distro (m-ba-cusnc-n1-addistro@us.navy.mil) to ensure we are tracking your situation and that you have met all of the travel requirements for your pet (vaccine records, FAVN titer result, etc). If you desire to keep your current travel options, please notify the distro. Your allowances will stop on July 31st if you elect not to submit a new PRR with an EDD no later than August 1st.

**Q. What if I acquired a new pet during the Authorized Departure?**

A. New pets will not be accommodated through government options. You will not be reimbursed for shipment costs of any pets acquired during your safe haven stay.

**Q. Can I choose to move my pet via private means (e.g. a pet relocation service, or chartering a private plane with other pet owners, etc.)?**

A. Yes. You will only be reimbursed for pet return expenses if a military option is not provided. Additionally, your allowances will not extend past July 31st, 2025.

**Q. What are the commercial airline or rotator restrictions on pet travel to Bahrain?**

A. Commercial airlines do not allow in-cabin pets on flights into Bahrain. Due to extreme temperatures and for animal safety, commercial airlines will not fly pets into Bahrain (in the cabin or in cargo) during the summer. Commercial airlines often resume animal transport around October or November, depending upon weather. This timeline varies across commercial airlines. The rotator allows pets to travel to Bahrain, but has a limit of 10 pets (regardless of type or location on the plane) per flight.

**Q. What documents are required for a pet traveling on a commercial flight to Bahrain?**

A. For a pet to travel on a commercial flight to Bahrain, the following documents are required: An International Health Certificate endorsed by the U.S. Federal Department of Agriculture, Vaccination Records, Exportation Certificate, and FAVN/Rabies Titer Test. Please check before proceeding with this option. Most commercial airlines will not fly pets in the summer.

**Q. Is there a waiver of required documentation for pets returning to Bahrain in August?**

A. Currently, there is no waiver in place for pets returning in August, and all above documentation is required to import your pet to Bahrain. If a military option is provided in August, and a waiver is obtained, missing vaccinations and FAVN titer test will still be required after pets return to Bahrain. **Pet owners must ensure their pet is as up to date as possible on vaccination requirements, and should obtain a FAVN blood draw as soon as possible.**

**Q. What if my pet has had a FAVN blood draw but my titer results will not be returned before my scheduled flight to Bahrain?**

A. Submit your PRR with all of the requested pet information so NAVCENT can track your travel needs. We are aware of the length of time it takes to get FAVN titer test results, and we are pursuing all options to allow families to return their pets to Bahrain as soon as possible.

**Q. Where do I provide the above required paperwork for importing a pet to Bahrain?**

A. Keep original documents and copies with you, as they will be requested by both the flight crew upon departure and customs upon arrival in Bahrain. If asked for documents prior to departure, provide copies and retain all originals, as original documents may be required upon your arrival in Bahrain.

**Q. What if I choose to wait to return until I have all of the required paperwork for my pet?**

A. **For dependents of military personnel**, if you elect to submit a PRR with an EDD later than August 1st, 2025 because you are awaiting pet paperwork, your allowances will stop on July 31st, 2025. Your ticket will be funded, but you will not receive allowances beyond July 31, 2025.

A. **For dependents of GS/ Civilian personnel**, entitlements are governed by the Department of State Standardized Regulations Chapter 600. You are encouraged to submit a PRR for new flights to arrive no later than July 31st, 2025. This will demonstrate your intent to return expeditiously. If you elect to request a flight after August, 1st, 2025 because you are awaiting pet paperwork, you may not receive allowances but your airline ticket will be funded. If you have individual questions regarding your return and entitlements, you can contact the NAVCENT General Counsel, Mr. Patrick Healy, at Patrick.d.healy.civ@us.navy.mil.