



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF WAR
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

MAR - 2 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOW FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Authorized Departure – Bahrain

The Department of State (DOS) has approved the Authorized Departure from Bahrain for eligible family members (EFMs), including DoW EFMs, and non-emergency civilian employees, including non-emergency DoW civilian employees, effective February 28, 2026.

DoW EFMs and non-emergency DoW civilian employees are authorized to depart Bahrain. The designated safe haven for departing DoW EFMs is anywhere in the 50 United States, District of Columbia, or non-foreign areas (U.S. territories, U.S. possessions, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands). The designated safe haven for departing non-emergency DoW civilian employees is Arlington, Virginia. The designated alternate safe haven for departing non-emergency DoW civilian employees is anywhere in the 50 United States, District of Columbia, or non-foreign areas (U.S. territories, U.S. possessions, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands).

Stop Forward Movement: U.S. Government-funded travel to Bahrain for DoW EFMs and non-emergency DoW civilian employees is suspended. The Stop Forward Movement Order will remain in effect until terminated by me.

Dependents of DoW Service members will be processed for safe haven allowances in accordance with the Joint Travel Regulations (JTR), Chapter 6 (Evacuation Travel), section 0602. DoW civilian employees and their EFMs will be processed for allowances in accordance with the JTR, Chapter 6, section 0604. The DoW point of contact is Ms. Whitney Ghara at whitney.r.ghara.civ@mail.mil or 703-571-0103.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean O'Keefe".

Sean O'Keefe
Deputy Under Secretary of War for Personnel
and Readiness

cc:

Deputy Chief of Staff G1, U.S. Army

Chief of Naval Personnel

Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel,

U.S. Air Force

Deputy Commandant for Manpower
and Reserve Affairs, U.S. Marine Corps

Deputy Assistant Secretary of War
for Military Personnel Policy

Deputy Assistant Secretary of War
for Civilian Personnel Policy

Deputy Assistant Secretary of War
for Military Community & Family Policy

Director for Manpower and Personnel,
Joint Chiefs of Staff J-1

Headquarters, Department of the Army Personnel
and Education-Mobilization Operations

Defense Attaché Service, Defense Intelligence Agency

Defense Travel Management Office