



## New Housing Allowance Guidelines Won't Result in Pay Cut

Defense officials are eliminating the "geographic rate protection" clause that ensures service members moving to a new area receive the same housing allowance as those already living there.

Geographic rate protection is expiring in January because Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates have reached a level where service members no longer have to pay out-of-pocket expenses for housing.



Any rate cut from year to year will not negatively affect service members who are remaining in the area where they already receive BAH.

Rate protection was instituted in 2000 to ensure troops' BAH rates were the same among like-pay grade individuals living in the same area while troops were still paying part of their own housing expenses.

Under the new BAH guidelines, a service member moving to a new area will receive the appropriate BAH rate for that area, regardless of whether troops already living there are receiving a higher rate.

Each year, BAH rates are adjusted with input from military housing offices in the area. If it is determined the rate needs to be increased, all service members living in that area will receive the increase.