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*Captain's Call*

Defense Department Authorizes Family Members to Return to Bahrain

U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT), in cooperation with the American Embassy in Bahrain, announced June 28 that all family members of Department of Defense (DoD) personnel will be allowed to return to Bahrain, effective immediately.

This decision marks the second step to change a DoD policy that has been in place since July 2004 when families were required to relocate following security concerns. The return of adult family members, announced late last year, was the first step in a phased process to bring back DoD family members of all ages to Bahrain.

Most NAVCENT personnel currently serve 12-month unaccompanied tours in Bahrain, with some billets designated as 18-month tours. This latest decision will authorize military members to be stationed in Bahrain for accompanied tours with their families for up to two years.

