



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

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

MAY - 7 2026

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

SUBJECT: Safe Haven Guidance for Department of War Personnel and Dependents in the Kaiserslautern Military Community

During February and March 2026, my office directed, via the attached memoranda, the Authorized and Ordered Departures of DoW dependents and civilian personnel from Bahrain and approved the Kaiserslautern Military Community (KMC) in Germany as an alternate safe haven. As Operation EPIC FURY continues to evolve, I must take action to best support those personnel and dependents in KMC.

Effective June 30, 2026, KMC will no longer be an approved alternate safe haven location for DoW dependents and civilian personnel who departed from Bahrain. Therefore, DoW dependents and civilian personnel are directed to begin planning for the selection of, and travel to, a safe haven location authorized by the Authorized and Ordered Departure memoranda for Bahrain, no later than June 30, 2026. For dependents of DoW Service members, the 180-day time limit for safe haven allowances will begin anew on the day they arrive at the new safe haven.

Those DoW dependents in KMC on 90-day tourist visas are encouraged to immediately file petitions with local German authorities to have their tourist status extended to ensure families with Department of War Education Activity students may complete the remainder of the school year in KMC. The Joint Staff and U.S. European Command will issue specific guidance to assist impacted families with filing their petitions efficiently and expeditiously.

As families embark on this next phase, I ask all leaders to remain mindful of continued resourcing for family support, including connections to counseling for those in need. Military OneSource is a 24/7 call center and website for quality-of-life resources to include counseling, relocation support, and information and referral.

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


Anthony J. Tata

Attachments:
As stated

Attachment

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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 that reads "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

Attachment

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

MAR - 3 2026

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

SUBJECT: Ordered Departure – Bahrain

The Department of State (DOS) has approved the Ordered Departure from Bahrain for eligible family members (EFMs), including DoW EFMs, and non-emergency civilian employees, including non-emergency DoW civilian employees, effective March 2, 2026. DOS previously approved an Authorized Departure for 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 ordered 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: The Stop Movement Order, issued by me on March 2, 2026, for U.S. Government funded travel to Bahrain for DoW EFMs and non-emergency DoW civilian employees remains in effect.

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.

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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

Attachment

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4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

MAR - 6 2026

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

SUBJECT: Alternate Foreign Safe Haven for Department of War Personnel Affected by the
Bahrain Ordered Departure

Department of War (DoW) eligible family members and non-emergency DoW civilian employees under Combatant Command authority who were ordered to depart Bahrain under the attached March 3, 2026 memorandum, may select a safe haven in the greater Kaiserslautern Military Community area of Germany as an alternative to selecting a safe haven anywhere in the 50 United States, District of Columbia, or non-foreign areas (U.S. territories and possessions). Applicable safe haven travel and allowances are authorized for the Kaiserslautern Military Community area in accordance with the Joint Travel Regulations. Under no circumstances may a dependent child be sent to Germany or remain in Germany without an adult sponsor or guardian.

The DoW point of contact is Ms. Whitney Ghara, Office of the Executive Director, at whitney.r.ghara.civ@mail.mil or 703-571-0103. The Department of Defense Education Activity point of contact is Mr. Michael Godfrey at michael.godfrey@dodea.edu or 571-372-5815.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony J. Tata". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Anthony J. Tata

Attachment:
As stated

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MAR - 3 2026

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

SUBJECT: Ordered Departure – Bahrain

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