

KEEP THE FIRE BURNING!!



B/208TH FINANCE BN



ISSUE 01

FINANCE NEWSLETTER

July 2001

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BRAVO BLAZE!!!

Delta Detachment, of the 208TH Finance Battalion received a name change on June 6, 2001. Delta Detachment 's name and guidon changed to Bravo Detachment, 208th Finance Bn.

Employee/Member

Let me see my
LES...



On-Line???

Self Service (E/MSS)

Soldiers Leave and Earnings Statements (LESSs) and Mid-Month Net Pay Advices (NPA's) are now available on-line with the use of the Employee/Member Self Service program or E/MSS. This revolutionary system allows any soldier access to their LES information by using their social security number and a PIN number.

Once you have entered your personal information (SSN and

PIN) you will be able to see an actual LES and NPA just like the one that is currently issued by your local finance office.

Other features that this magnificent system provides are changes/updates to your tax information like number of exemptions claimed, marital status etc... You can also change the financial institution for your direct deposit of military pay.

Another option that is available is that if you do not wish to receive a hardcopy of your LES through the regular distribution channels, you can login and "turn-off" that option at your convenience.

Soldiers that have lost or forgotten their PIN number can access the E/MSS web page by login into: <HTTPS://EMSS.DFAS.MIL> and review question number 30 in the Frequently Asked Questions for the instructions on how to reset the PIN. They can also call the E/MSS Customer Service Center at 1-800-390-2348.

For newly assessed soldiers, PIN numbers will normally be issued within 60 days and mailed directly to the servicing DMPO/finance office for distribution.

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Date Initially Entered Military Service (DIEMS)

1. What does the acronym DIEMS (pronounced DEEMS) stand for?

It stands for: Date initially entered military service.

2. What is a DIEMS date? A DIEMS date is the earliest date of enlistment, induction, or appointment in a regular or reserve component of a uniformed service as a commissioned officer, warrant officer, or enlisted member.

3. Why is the DIEMS date important?

There are currently three retired pay formulas... Your DIEMS date determines which of the three retired pay formulas you are eligible to use. **NOTE: The DIEMS date is not used in the retired pay formula; it only determines which formula will be used.**

4. What are the three retired pay formulas and the periods of eligibility for each?

Soldiers with DIEMS dates before 8 Sep 80 are under the Final Basic Pay formula. Soldiers with DIEMS dates between 8 Sep 80 and 31 Jul 86 are under the High-3 retired pay formula. Soldiers with DIEMS dates on or after 1 Aug 86 are automatically covered under the High-3 formula unless, between their 14-1/2 and 15th year of active duty, they elect to use the REDUX formula. Soldiers who elect REDUX receive a \$30,000 career status bonus (CSB) when they complete 15 years of active service. To qualify for the CSB/REDUX choice, they must be eligible for

retention to 20 years and agree to stay for 20 years.

If you have further questions, you can visit the website:

www.odcsper.army.mil or

you can send an Email to:

BeilkeM@hoffman.army.mil



New Procedures for claims of BAH for Illegitimate Children

THIS MESSAGE IS ISSUED TO CLARIFY THE PROPER PROCESSING PROCEDURES FOR THE ENTITLEMENT TO BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING (BAH) FOR A MEMBER WITH AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD (REN).

MEMBERS ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED TO OBTAIN DFAS APPROVAL TO BE ENTITLED TO BAH FOR AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD (REN). THE DA FORM 5960 REQUESTING BAH FOR A DEPENDENT ILLEGITIMATE CHILD, MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH A BIRTH CERTIFICATE LISTING THE MEMBER AS PARENT, A COURT-ORDER, OR A SIGNED STATEMENT OF PARENTAGE TO BE ENTITLED

TO BAH. REFERENCE: DODFMR 7A, 260412, A, 3.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE PHYSICAL CUSTODY OF THEIR ILLIGITIMATE CHILD (REN), CHILD RESIDING WITH THE PARENT, ARE ENTITLED TO BAH AT THE WITH DEPENDENT RATE. MEMBER'S WHO DO NOT HAVE PHYSICAL CUSTODY ARE ENTITLED TO BAH-DIFFERENTIAL (BAH-DIFF) BASED ON PROOF OF PAYMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT, VOLUNTARY OR COURT ORDERED. THE SUPPORT PAYMENTS MUST EQUAL OR EXCEED AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE BAH-DIFF RATE AUTHORIZED FOR THEIR GRADE.

A MEMBER RESIDING IN SINGLE TYPE GOVERNMENT QUARTERS IS ENTITLED TO BAH-DIFF IF THE CHILD SUPPORT EQUALS OR EXCEEDS THE AUTHORIZED BAH-DIFF RATE FOR THE MEMBERS GRADE. A MEMBER RESIDING IN FAMILY TYPE GOVERNMENT QUARTERS IS NOT ENTITLED TO BAH-DIFF FOR AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD, REGARDLESS OF THE REQUIREMENT TO PAY CHILD SUPPORT.

A MEMBER RESIDING OFF POST HAVING PHYSICAL CUSTODY OF ILLIGETIMATE CHILD (REN) IS ENTITLED TO THE WITH DEPENDENT RATE OF BAH I BASED ON THE MEMBERS PDS.

A MEMBER RESIDING OFF POST, NOT HAVING CUSTODY OF THEIR ILLEGITIMATE CHILD (REN) IS ENTITLED TO BAH I AT THE WITHOUT

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DEPENDENT RATE AT THE PDS LOCATION AND BAH-DIFF IF THE SUPPORT MEETS THE CRITERIA FOR ENTITLEMENT.

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS PERTAINING TO THIS MESSAGE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO E-MAIL ADDRESS: robert.j.hill@dfas.mil Or bonnie.hall@dfas.mil.



UCFR Information for unit PAC's

The B-Detachment, 208th Finance Battalion is still experiencing problems with company-level commanders returning the Unit Commander's Finance Report (UCFR) in a timely manner.

Commanders should note once again that PERSCOM message DTG 101600Z Aug 95, and MILPER memorandum 97-004 dated 26 Sep 97, Subject: Unit

Commander's Finance Report (UCFR), direct that unit commanders review the monthly UCFR and return a certified copy to finance on a separate Unit Transmittal Letter (UTL) within 5-10 days after the end of month payday. The following statement, along with the commander's signature block and signature, should be placed on the UCFR returned to finance:

"I certify that I have reviewed the accountability, pay entitlements, and duty status of the personnel assigned or attached to my unit and that this information is correct. All discrepancies have been annotated and appropriate documentation has been submitted to correct those discrepancies."

The UCFR, when properly used, allows the commander to ensure his/her soldiers are receiving correct entitlements along with providing leave and debt balance information. All soldiers in the unit should appear on the UCFR. If a soldier is not in the unit but his/her information appears on the UCFR, annotate the LES in the following manner: PCS TO (Name of Duty Station and date), SEPARATED/RETIRED (give date), or NEVER ASSIGNED TO UNIT, and return it to finance with the certified copy of the UCFR. **If additions or changes are required to entitlements, the appropriate authorizing documents must be attached to the certified UCFR.**

An accurate review of the UCFR is the principal factor in reducing fraud, waste, and abuse and ensuring soldiers are paid accurately.

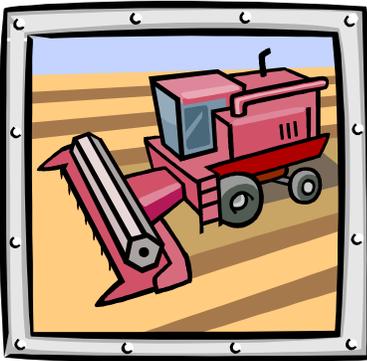


B-Detachment, 208th Finance will celebrate their organization day

On Thursday, 2 August 2001 we will celebrate our organization date at the North 40 training area from 0900-1700hrs.

Services will be limited during this day, so it is strongly encouraged that the community make plans ahead of time to avoid long lines at the cashier window during this day.

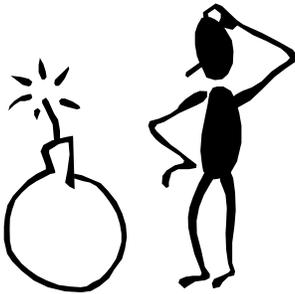
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Finance is going to the field!!!

Our Detachment will be testing our technical and tactical skills during our next field training exercise to be conducted from the 10-12 of September 2001 at the North 40 training area.

Unit Pac's will be encouraged to bring all documents at the training site for regular processing.



Travel news

We are experiencing some problems when we receive travel vouchers that are signed by the reviewers and/or supervisors on the bottom of the travel voucher.

We would like to have those reviewers and/or supervisors to **PRINT** their name and then sign so that our travel voucher examiners can identify the individuals that are approving those claims more efficiently.



Disbursing News

If your spouse needs to cash a check, military members must have current Personal Check Cashing Agreements on file at the Disbursing Office.



If you have any questions about any of the articles covered on this issue, please refer them to the editor at:

Manuel.Olmotorres@setaf.army.mil

Or call 634-7455.