



CAMP DARBY



Issue 8

FINANCE NEWSLETTER

May/June 2002

Bravo Detachment, 208th FB, Camp Darby, Italy

FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY PAY (FLPP) CHANGES:

All units were required to re-certify their FLPP nlt 17 May, 02. This directive was initiated do to recent changes in FLPP per HQDA message 091642Z April, 02. Foreign Language Proficiency Pay (FLPP) has been updated and 141 languages have been deleted and no longer qualify for FLPP II entitlement. Orders issued before 09 April, 2002, will be valid until the expiration date. Soldiers currently receiving this entitlement who did not meet the suspense may see an interruption in their FLPP entitlement. If you did not re-certify your FLPP by providing finance a copy of your FLPP orders, please do so ASAP in order to prevent an interruption in your pay.

EURO RATE VIA EMAIL:

If you would like to receive the EURO rate in your email each day, contact our office at DSN 633-7516, or email charles.fowler@darby.setaf.army.mil



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TRAVEL ADVANCES:

Once again, PCS season is upon us. The majority of military Permanent Change of Station (PCS) moves occur in the summer months. This is a reminder that all soldiers incident to PCS are exempt from mandatory use of the government travel card per the DODFMR, Vol 9, Chap 3 (030302 B.2.c.). Travel advances are authorized even if the soldier possesses a government travel card (030304 B.).

As soon as you receive your orders and clearing papers, come by finance and fill out your advance request. Upon approval, your advance will be promptly transferred to your account.

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- 1 Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Open Season
- 2 U.S. Savings Bond Rate Update
- 3 SDP for Operation Enduring Freedom?
- 4 TDY Rental cars in Germany
- 5 Travel Card Newsflash

Bravo Blaze, Keep the fire burning!!!

Travel News

➤ SPLIT-DISBURSEMENT EASES PAYING THE BILL FOR TDY TRAVEL:

Paying your government credit card bill has never been easier. The Split-Disbursement option sends your payment directly to the Bank of America and eliminates mail delays and service charges. When you submit your travel settlement, simply check the Split-Disbursement option in block #1 of the DD 1351-2 and specify the amount you would like to be paid to your government travel card bill. The remaining funds for your TDY settlement will be electronically transferred to your normal account. If you haven't used this option before, give it a try and you will be impressed at the speed and efficiency.

➤ A service that works hand-in-hand with the Split-disbursement is Bank of America's Electronic Account Government Ledger System (EAGLS). Card holders can check their travel card account by visiting the EAGLS web site. They must first obtain a USER ID and password from their Agency Program Coordinator. Then you can log on to <https://www.gov-eagls.bankofamerica.com/> and find their account balance.

➤ TRAVEL CARD STATUS UPDATE: It appears that Bank of America (BOA) will continue to perform according to the current Travel Card contract, according to a recent MACOM Government Travel Card teleconference held with the Army POC (HQDA) and the representatives for Bank of America. Higher level meetings are scheduled to begin May 6th--more information to follow as meetings progress. Therefore, DO NOT SUBMIT MASSIVE TRAVEL ADVANCE requests for TDY in anticipation of program cancellation. We will keep you posted on further developments as we receive information from our official sources.

➤ TDY ADVANCES: For those TDY Travelers requesting an advance, ensure that you plan ahead and provide finance a copy of your travel orders DD 1610 and Advance Request in sufficient time to prepare the payment. For those required to do a short notice or emergency TDY, we understand the time constraints and will be more than happy to accommodate your request but we are experiencing a trend of TDY travelers walking in at the last minute or coming by after normally duty hours requesting an advance for the next day. We need your request at least 48 hours prior to your departure. On a case by case basis, we will make exceptions for emergencies only. Help us to help you by giving us sufficient time to prepare your payment.

➤ TDY RENTAL CARS IN GERMANY: Many TDY travelers are NOT aware that they are EXEMPT from paying the 16% Valued Added Tax (VAT) for rental cars in Germany. The officially recognized rental car company for official travel in Germany is EUROPCAR GMBH. Upon requesting a rental car, you MUST present your official travel order and you will not have to pay the VAT tax. If you are TDY, and rent a car in Germany with your official orders, ensure that you do not pay the VAT tax.



➤ Government Travel Card holders, your SETAF AGENCY PROGRAM COORDINATORS (APCs) located in Vicenza, Italy are:

PRIMARY: Ms. Veronica Mayers 634-7487
ALTERNATE: Ms. Donna Freedman 634-7257

➤ TIPS FOR TDY TRAVELERS : When submitting your TDY settlement claim, you should use the newest DD 1351-2, dated Mar 2000. The old forms will still be accepted until exhausted but we encourage you to use the new and improved form.



RESERVE/NG DEPLOYMENT INFORMATION:

Activated Reservists receive mortgage rate cut:

National Guard and Reserve members called to active duty will receive a cut in their home loan interest rates under the 1940 Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is advising all FHA-approved lenders to reduce mortgage interest rates to no more than six percent for military personnel on active duty. HUD operates a toll free number for servicemen and women. For more information, call 1-888-297-8685

Dental Benefits for Reservists:

All active duty service member are provided with dental benefits at no cost through military dental treatment facilities. National Guard and Reserve members are called to active duty for a period of more than 30 consecutive days who are enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP), will have their individual coverage discontinued during their period of active duty. For more info call United Concordia at 1-800-866-8499.

Jun

CALENDAR

- Payday (May) 31
- Payday (June) 01
- Midmo Cutoff (units) 04
- Midmo NPA distro 11
- Midmonth Payday 14
- LN Payday 14
- **USAREUR Tng Ho l 17**
- EOM cutoff (units) 18
- LES Distro 25
- LN Payday 28



FISCAL YEAR 2002
MILITARY PAYDAYS

- MAY 2002-----31 MAY
- JUN 2002-----01 JUL
- JUL 2002-----01 AUG
- AUG 2002-----30 AUG
- SEP 2002-----01 OCT



Military Report.com
www.militaryreport.com

- MAY 13, ISSUE
 - Retirement Home fees may double.
 - Scholarships for military children.
 - TSP Open Season info
- MAY 06, ISSUE
 - Financial Planning Important for Service Members
 - Tax change brings more Earned Income credit.
 - School Tuition waived for NAF children overseas



www.defenselink.mil/news

DEFENSE LINK:

The defense link web site contains a wealth of information on both Military News as well as a broad spectrum of finance news and information.

MONEY MATTERS

- **THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN (TSP) OPEN SEASON:** For those of you who missed the first open season or were undecided, now is your chance to enroll in the TSP. Open season begins 15 May through 31 July, 2002. For more information visit www.tsp.gov The unit PACs will complete the form, the original is submitted to PSB (part of the casualty packet-DA 201 file) and a copy of the completed form to finance.
- **FAMILY SGLI ALLOTMENTS AND REFUNDS:** Soldiers who wish to stop/change their Family SGLI must contact their Personnel Office. They must complete a new 8286A and have the personnel office update the DMDC web page. DFAS will receive the information to stop/change the SGLI on a monthly report from DMDC. If the soldier is due a refund, DFAS will make the input to the soldiers account.
- **SAVINGS DEPOSIT PROGRAM (SDP):** If you are a serving outside the United States in Support of **Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)** you are authorized to make deposits into the Savings Deposit Program (SDP). Amounts deposited accrue interest at the rate of 10% per annum compounded quarterly from the first month of deposit. Each member must have served at least 30 consecutive days in an area designated to be in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The maximum amount on which the 10% interest is computed is \$10,000. For more information visit the 266th FINCOM web site at: <https://www.266fc.hqusareur.army.mil/>
- **INCOME TAX--DEADLINE TO FILE:** Tax Season is coming to a close but if you are stationed in Europe, you have an automatic extension to file your federal income taxes. The normal April 15th deadline does not apply and you have an additional two months to file your taxes by **June 15th**. For more information, please contact your local legal office. If you are deployed to the Balkans, you may have an additional 180 days AFTER you return to file your taxes.
- **HOW MUCH INSURANCE DO YOU NEED?** Are you ready for retirement? See the 266th FINCOM's Financial Readiness Improvement Program at <https://www.266fc.hqusareur.army.mil> to get the scoop!



I BONDS = 2.57%

Buy Bonds

www.savingsbonds.gov

Current Rates: (through Oct. 2002)



EE BONDS = 3.96%

New rates will be posted on Nov 1, 2002

Soldiers on the Move

Just PCS'd to Europe?

If your duty assignment location is anywhere *South of the Alps* to include Italy, Turkey, Greece, Spain, or Portugal, B Det, 208th FB will be responsible for your military pay, travel, and finance issues. We consider it a privilege to be able to provide finance support to you.

Overseas Entitlements you need to be aware of.

Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA): *payable while residing in temporary quarters prior to your receipt of permanent housing. Paid with your normal pay in your LES.*

• **Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA).** *For economy type quarters--not Government housing.*

• **Moving In Housing Allowance (MIHA).** *Payable in conjunction with OHA for misc expenses. This is a one time payment paid in your LES.*

• **Advance Station Housing Allowance (ASHA).** *For moving in deposits required for economy quarters (OHA contracts only).*

• **Cost of Living Allowance (COLA).** *To offset expense of living in Europe.*

• **Tri-care Dental Insurance:** *Not needed while stationed in Europe.*

• **Valued Added Tax (VAT):** *You may be tax exempt for some purchases on the economy. For more information contact your legal office or Financial Management division (FMD).*

Deploying Soon?

Your tour in Europe could very possibly include a rotation to one of several deployment locations to include Bosnia, Hungary, Croatia, Macedonia, or Kosovo. In the event you are required to deploy to one of these locations referred to as "down range" it is very important that you understand your pay entitlements.

Deployment Entitlements:

• **Hostile Fire Pay/Imminent Danger Pay:** *payable at \$150 per month if location is authorized.*

• **Combat Zone Tax Exclusion (CZTE).** *Some designated location offer tax exemption.*

• **Family Separation Allowance (FSA).** *Payable at the rate of \$100 per month if you qualify.*

• **Per Diem:** *Standard is \$3.50 per day.*

• **Special Leave Accrual:** *You may qualify to carry more than the normal 60 days into next FY.*

• **Saving Deposit Program (SDP):** *You may be able to earn a guaranteed 10% on money you deposit while deployed.*

The 266th FINCOM has an excellent web site that will provide you information on each one of these topics

www.266fc.hqusareur.army.mil

PCSing back to the States?

You have successfully completed your European tour and now it is time to PCS back to the United States. Some of the entitlements that you have become accustomed to receiving will no longer be paid upon your return to CONUS. Here are some things you should know.

• **Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH):** *Once you terminate your lease or government quarters, you will be entitled to BAH II (table rate) until you arrive at your new duty station--will be updated there.*

• **COLA:** *Your overseas COLA terminates immediately upon your return to CONUS.*

• **Temporary Lodging Expense (TLE):** *Upon arrival in CONUS, you may be entitled to TLE for some expenses incurred during your PCS. Claim this on your travel voucher while in-processing.*

• **Tri-care Dental Insurance:** *This is a good time to start your Dental Insurance back up as you may need it stateside.*

• **Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA):** *payable while residing in temporary quarters prior to your Departure. Paid with your normal pay in your LES.*

• **MIHA Paint:** *If you entered into an OHA contract requiring you to paint your economy quarters, you may be entitled to re-imburement. Your local housing office can assist.*

POINTS OF CONTACT

BRAVO DETACHMENT, 208TH FINANCE BATTALION
UNIT 31401, BOX 50
APO AE 09630

VICENZA, ITALY

COMMANDER	634-7024
DET SGT	634-7044
XO	634-7612
SEPARATIONS	634-8855
DISBURSING	634-7622
IMO	634-8866
MILITARY PAY	634-7455
TRAVEL	634-8027
COM ACCTS	634-8994
ACCOUNTING	634-7251
LN PAY	634-7019
IN/OUT PROC	634-7531



CAMP DARBY, ITALY

FST CHIEF 633-7516

UNIT 31301, BOX 48, APO AE 09613

NAPLES, ITALY

FST CHIEF HQ USAE FINANCE PSC 813 , BOX 156, APO AE 09620
COM 081-721-2186

MADRID, SPAIN

FST CHIEF JHQSW USANSA, PSC 840, BOX 14, FPO AE 09649
COM 0034-91-512-0564

LARISSA, GREECE

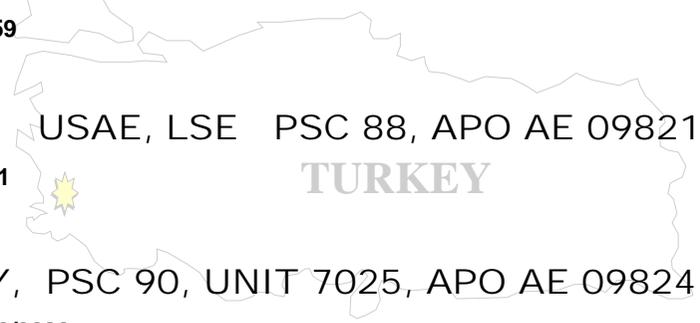
FST CHIEF US ARMY NATO PSC 844, BOX 2, FPO AE 09844
672-2259

IZMIR, TURKEY

FST CHIEF USAE, LSE PSC 88, APO AE 09821
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ANKARA, TURKEY

POC ODC TURKEY, PSC 90, UNIT 7025, APO AE 09824
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Information current as of date of publication.

Newsletter POC: This newsletter is a publication of Bravo Detachment, 208th Finance Battalion. The information contained herein is for the benefit of our Camp Darby community. We hope that you find the information useful and informative. If you have any suggestions or comments, contact SFC Tom Fowler, at DSN 633-7516 or email charles.fowler@darby.setaf.army.mil

MPS

COMMANDER
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Feedback Form

Please take a few minutes to provide suggestions as to how we may improve our service to you.
