

# THE US MILITARY PAY STUB

## Leave and Earnings Statement (LES)

Count "Leave and Earnings Statement" (LES) payments and/or allowances under the "ENTITLEMENTS" section in the **Food Stamp** budget as follows:

PAY TYPE	Count as Income?
<b>MILITARY BASIC PAY (BASE PAY OR BASIC PAY)</b> – This is the "active-duty pay" status which is based on their rank and time in the service.	Yes
<b>BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR SUBSISTENCE (BAS)</b> - All enlisted and officers receive full-rate BAS (or food allowance) after initial entry training (boot camp and follow-up schooling). NOTE: Most (but not all) of the BAS is automatically deducted from the paychecks of members required to consume meals in the dining facilities.	Yes
<b>CLOTHING MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (CMA)</b> - Annual Clothing Allowance paid to military personnel for the repair/replacement of military clothing issued during basic training	No
<b>BAH DIFFERENTIAL (BAH-DIFF)</b> - The difference between the full married BAH rate and full single BAH is paid to military personnel who don't have custody of their children and are paying child support (by court order).	Yes
<b>BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING (BAH)</b> (or BAQ, Basic Allowance for Quarters) - The Military offers free or subsidized housing to all its members. The amount of BAH is dependent upon the rank, location and whether or not having dependents.	Depends. Could be a vendor payment <i>(see next page)</i>
<b>CAREER SEA PAY</b> – Allowance to military members performing sea duty.	Yes
<b>FLIGHT PAY</b> – Allowances to military members who are on flying status receive a monthly "flight pay"	Yes
<b>JUMP PAY</b> – Special pay or allotment if required to jump from an airplane.	Yes
<b>COMBAT PAY</b> - Payments to member assigned to or deployed to a combat zone.	No
<b>HARDSHIP DUTY PAY (HDP)</b> - Some combat areas qualify for this special monthly allowance.	No <i>(This is in addition to combat pay)</i>
<b>FAMILY SEPARATION ALLOWANCE (FSA)</b> – Allowance to military members with dependents anytime they are away from their families (due to military orders) for 30 days or longer.	Yes
<b>DISLOCATION ALLOWANCE (DLA)</b> - Partially payment for relocation expenses (not otherwise reimbursed) when relocating their household due to a Permanent Change of Location (PCL).	No
<b>REENLISTMENT BONUSES</b> – Payment could be a lump sum or annual installments.	Yes if received in installments. <i>Count as resources if received in a Lump Sum</i>
<b>FAMILY SUBSISTENCE SUPPLEMENTAL ALLOWANCE (FSSA)</b> - Assistance to certain service members and their families so they will not have to rely on food stamps to make ends meet.	Yes

# THE FOOD STAMP BUDGET

## MILITARY MEMBER IN THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD

All payments and allowances showing in the ENTITLEMENT section of the LES will be considered earned income and counted in the food stamp budget with the following exceptions:

- Exclude the Clothing Maintenance Allowance (CMA), which is a reimbursement.
- If the allowance is listed as an “entitlement” and is also listed in the “Deduction” or “Allotment” section of the LES, count only the amount exceeding the “deduction” or “Allotment” amount in the food stamp budget.
- When the military contract out property management responsibilities, the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) is included as an “entitlement” then deducted as a “discretionary allotment”:
  - If the BAH “entitlement” is paid directly to the property owner/agency, the BAH will be excluded from income as a vendor payment.
  - If the BAH is received directly by the military member instead of being paid to the landlord, it will be excluded as reimbursement for future expenses to the extent that the “entitlement” does not exceed the actual expense. Any portion of the BAH “entitlement” remaining after paying for housing will be considered earned income.
- Dislocation Allowance (DLA) or any other allowance, which are one-time payments, will not count because the payment cannot be anticipated for the following quarter.
- If reenlistment bonuses are received in a lump sum, it is exempt as income under the lump sum provisions, but they are counted as resources in the month received. If the bonus is paid in equal annual installments, count earned income as it’s received.

### MILITARY MEMBER IN REGULAR DEPLOYMENT

- The amount the military member absent in military deployment makes available, assigns, or sends to the food stamp household will be counted as unearned income to the food stamp household.
- If the entire pay is deposited in an account which is accessible to the food stamp household, the entire pay will be counted in the food stamp budget as unearned income.

### MILITARY MEMBER IN DEPLOYMENT IN A DESIGNATED COMBAT ZONE

Combat allotments made available to a food stamp household by an absent member deployed to a combat zone will be excluded when determining eligibility to food stamps. Disregard any amount of combat zone pay that goes to the household that is in excess of the military person’s pre-deployment.

1. Determine the military member’s pay that was available to the food stamp household before the deployment to a combat zone;
    - If the military member was part of the food stamp household prior to deployment to a combat zone, this amount will be the household’s net military pay.
  2. Determine the amount of military pay that the deployed person is making available to the food stamp household after being assigned to a combat zone.
- If the current amount (#2 above) is equal or less than the amount the household was receiving prior to the deployment to a combat zone, count the entire amount as unearned income.
  - Any portion that exceeds the amount the household was receiving immediately before deployment to a combat zone will be excluded as income when determining the amount of food stamp benefits.