

Lodging Questions & Answers

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Q1: Why did Office of the Secretary of Defense direct a change in funding source for all Department of Defense Lodging operations?

A1: This conversion effort supports the DoD's reform objectives to make business operations more efficient and free up funds for higher priority programs.

Q2: How was Air Force Lodging funded in the past?

A2: Air Force Lodging was funded through a combination of Appropriated Funds (or APF, aka "taxpayer dollars") and Non-appropriated Funds, or NAF, generated through user fees. With the OSD-required change, all funding for lodging must be generated through user fees.

Q3: Will I see improvements in Air Force Lodging as a result of this change?

A3: The expectation is that over time Air Force Lodging facility improvements will move toward more modern facilities that conform to current industry standards.

Q4: How soon will Air Force Lodging facilities be improved as a result of this rate increase?

A4: The rate increase is only one part of our lodging transformation. The increased rates for fiscal year 2019 will start to build the cash required to offset the additional expenses expected beginning in fiscal 2020. Customers will see improvements in 2 to 4 years.

Q5: Will anyone's job change or will jobs be lost as a result of this change?

A5: All civilian personnel working in Air Force Lodging Operations are already NAF employees, so no changes are expected for civilians. Military personnel assigned to Lodging will be reallocated to emerging Force Support Squadron missions to ensure required services' deployment capabilities are not reduced.

Q6: Will my base get a new lodging facility as a result of this funding change?

LODGING RATE INCREASES

Q7: Why are nightly lodging rates increasing?

A7: Previously, a portion of Air Force Lodging expenses was paid for with APF funds. Now, 100 percent of the lodging budget must come from user fees generated through the nightly room rate. The rate adjustment allows Air Force Lodging to better maintain properties and modernize Air Force facilities for Airmen and their families. Although there will be a fee increase, we are committed to providing our customers affordable prices and comfortable stays.

Q8: Does the fiscal year 2019 rate increase impact Space Available customers?

A8: The rate increase impacts all customers. However, Space-A lodging for non-official travel still provides a quality, affordable lodging experience at lower cost than off-base lodging—where and when lodging capacity exceeds mission requirements

Q9: I already had a reservation before the rates changed. Will Lodging honor those rates?

A9: No, as of Jan. 1, 2019, the new rates will be the rates applied when you complete your stay.

Q10: Are we expecting lodging rates to increase again in future years?

A10: Yes. Now that major lodging budget expenses, such as utilities and maintenance, are no longer paid for with APF, there will likely be a need in the future to adjust the rates again to account for these costs as we continue to modernize the portfolio.

Q11: Why didn't the Air Force implement this rate increase at the beginning of the fiscal year?

A11: The Air Force was awaiting official OSD notification about the conversion to 100% NAF before approving the new Air Force Lodging rates. The OSD memo was sent to the Services in mid-Nov.

A6: The Air Force has a deliberate plan to improve all Air Force Lodging Operations in the upcoming years. For example, in 2019 new facilities will open at the following bases: Beale Air Force Base (Temporary Lodging Facilities), Cannon AFB (TLF), Joint Base Charleston (Visiting Quarters), Davis Monthan AFB (VQ), Dyess AFB (TLF), Eglin AFB (TLF), Goodfellow AFB (TLF), and Ramstein Air Base (TLF). More new lodging facilities are in design and approved going into 2021 and beyond.

TRAVEL ENTITLEMENTS

Q12: Will the new lodging rates exceed the local per diem rates?

A12: No, Air Force Lodging rates are within per diem levels for all locations and all room types. Note: Two locations have lower per diem rates. The lodging rates at those locations will match the local per diem rates.

Q13: Does this change my travel entitlements when I am TDY?

A13: No, travel entitlements do not change. Airmen traveling in an official capacity will be reimbursed at the appropriate rate.

Q14: Does this impact my temporary lodging expense when I'm PCSing?

A14: You will still be able to use TLE when PCSing and will be reimbursed at the appropriate rate.

Q15: Since rates have increased, do I still have to stay on base or can I choose to stay off base?

A15: The rate increase is still within per diem and the DoD requires official TDY travelers stay in DoD lodging facilities when performing any portion of their TDY mission at a DoD installation. Travelers who do not obtain the appropriate non-availability letter or confirmation number will receive limited reimbursement for their lodging accommodations. OSD issued a directive in April 2018 reinforcing this requirement.