

## Quarterly Update

## FOR: EUCOM Public Affairs

SUBJECT: (U) EUCOM Quarterly Updates - 2nd Quarter 2025

✓ JAN 25 - Visa Implementation

<u>United Kingdom</u>: New pre-travel entry requirements for U.S. citizens and other nationalities effective January 8, 2025. All U.S. citizens without a UK visa or legal residency status in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland will require an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) prior to entering the UK (including Northern Ireland and British Overseas Territories).

ETA implementation is part of the UK government's transition towards a digital border.

**Italy:** Italy has announced significant changes to its visa requirements starting January 10, 2025. All visa applicants, including those applying for long-term "D" visas, are required to provide their fingerprints when submitting their application, meaning fingerprint collection will be mandatory for all visa types to enter Italy. This is due to a new decree-law (145/2024) that mandates biometric data collection for all visa applications.

For Italy, the US Government is working to secure exemptions from these requirements for military dependents, DoD Civilians, Contractors and their families.

✓ 2025 Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) Survey 1 Jan – 31 Mar 2025

Completing the survey is critical to ensure OHA rates for the Utility and Recurring Maintenance Allowance are properly set for Service Members (SM) assigned throughout Germany. The survey results directly impact the amount of Utility and Recurring Maintenance Allowance each SM receives.

If you receive OHA and meet the following qualifications, you should participate in the survey:

- Assigned to a Germany tour at least 6 months
- Reside in Privately leased quarters (not a homeowner or \*sharer)

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\*Sharer: SMs sharing rent with another SM or with a civilian in receipt of Living Quarters Allowance.

Spouses are encouraged to complete the survey with the SM or if the SM is unavailable.

Survey participants should reference utility bills and recurring maintenance expense receipts or estimates in order to accurately complete the survey.

Reportable Utility and Recurring Maintenance expenses include the following:

Electricity; Natural gas for heating and cooking; Bottled gas; Other household fuels such as kerosene, heating oil, coal, firewood; Sewer; Trash; Running water; Bottled water; Rental insurance required by custom, law or lease; Maintenance and repair costs such as appliance repairs, light bulbs, mold treatment, pest control, air filters, and alarm monitoring fees; EXCLUDES yard or lawn maintenance.

The OHA survey is available at the following link: <u>https://www.travel.dod.mil/Allowances/Overseas-Housing-Allowance/OHA-Data-Collection-Surveys/</u>

✓ Domestic Employees Teleworking Overseas (DETO)

The Department of Defense recently streamlined the process for DETO agreements to allow dependents of service members and DoD civilian employees working overseas to remote work for federal agencies while their sponsor is on orders overseas. As an overseas dependent you can now look for remote jobs on USAJobs. Although remote jobs on the site say "Anywhere in the U.S.", you can also apply to these jobs from overseas as well. You must still meet one of the vacancy's hiring path considerations (open to public, military spouses, etc.) and the hiring agency must agree to execute a DETO agreement with you.

✓ Spousal Employment Initiatives

The ECJ1 Human Capital Division has hired a full-time civilian recruiter who will focus efforts on spousal employment. They have launched several initiatives to

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include working with the EUCOM Volunteer Internship Program and collaborating with the Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program Manager to encourage spouses to take advantage of services (resume writing, navigating USA Jobs, preparing for interviews, etc.). EUCOM will utilize the U.S. Army in Europe and Africa's Civilian Jobs (EURCivJobs) resume repository tool to address the challenges of overseas recruitment. EURCivJobs is available at <a href="https://civjobs.ext.eur.army.mil/">https://civjobs.ext.eur.army.mil/</a>

EUCOM's recruiter will share qualified (spouse) resumes with potentially matching positions to advise those hiring managers on availability of spouse preference and other applicable Direct Hiring Authorities (DHAs).