

CEW DCS Train-Up/Preparation Stage FAQs

1. *What is the difference between Department of Defense (DoD) Civilian Expeditionary Workforce (CEW) missions and Department of the Army (DA) deployments?*

DoD CEW missions are Joint Task Force positions identified specifically by DoD and staffed by DoD in support of a contingency operation overseas. Department of the Army (DA) deployment positions are positions identified as requirements for the Army to fill, also in support of contingency operations. DA has adopted the CEW acronym for its contingency operations missions to be filled by DA Civilians. There is no difference between a DoD and DA CEW mission from the standpoint of benefits, pay, and other rights and privileges afforded the deploying civilian. When referencing CEW in the context of DA Civilians, DA is referencing all deployed DA Civilians and issues/policies related to these civilians.

2. *How do I apply for a position?*

You can find job listings for Department of Army positions at [USA Jobs](#). Department of Defense Civilian Expeditionary Workforce job opportunities, you need to go [DoD CEW](#). Directions for applying can be found with each job announcement.

3. *What types of positions are available?*

There are a wide variety of different types of deployment opportunities ranging from administrative assistants to electrical engineers. The precise job opportunities vary depending on mission requirements so please see either [USA Jobs](#) or [DoD CEW](#) for more information.

4. *If I accept a CEW position (any position where I have to deploy, not just DoD Joint Task Force CEW missions), do I have return rights back to my original organization?*

Yes, per Department of Defense Directive 1404.10. "Those who are reassigned from their normal position to serve expeditionary requirements will be granted the right to return to the positions they held prior to their deployment or to a position of similar grade, level, and responsibility within the same local organization, regardless of the length of deployment. There shall be no retaliation because of an employee's expression of interest in serving an expeditionary requirement or because of such service. This includes threats or denial of rights to return to pre-deployment positions, promotions, training opportunities, or other career enhancing opportunities."

5. *I am a Reservist and would like to deploy, what must I do?*

Active Reservists are not eligible to deploy as a civilian until they have contacted their unit and are approved and placed in an inactive status.

6. *What type of medical evaluations must I have before deploying?*

You will need to have a complete medical evaluation prior to deploying. Typically, you will be expected to have a military health care professional conduct this complete medical evaluation and then these records will be reviewed by a Combatant Command (currently the CENTCOM Command) designated Military doctor to ensure deployment readiness. Once you have accepted a deployment position you

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should contact your agency to determine the precise requirements and procedures that will be expected of you regarding medical evaluations.

7. What is the Deployment Health Assessment Program?

The Deployment Health Assessment Program (DHA) is a method of determining your overall health, to include physical, psychological, and sociological components of your health. There are three phases to the DHA: Pre-Deployment Health Assessment (conducted no sooner than 60 days prior to your deployment date); Post-Deployment Health Assessment (PDHA) (conducted within 30 days before or after your redeployment date); and the Post-Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA) (conducted within 90-180 days after returning from your deployment).

For each phase there is a form which must be completed by you followed by a face-to-face screening with a Health Care Professional.

The DHA Program is particularly important to help you ensure that you are healthy physically, mentally, and socially. The Pre-Deployment Health Assessment (along with your other pre-deployment medical screenings) serves as a baseline of your overall level of health. The PDHA and PDHRA then serve to alert you to any problems that may have been caused by your deployment. This is beneficial both for your overall health and also if you need to file a Workers Compensation claim as such claims require detailed documentation linking your health-related problems to on-the-job factors.

8. Do I need to have a will or power of attorney?

It is not mandatory for you to have a will or power of attorney. However, you will likely be deploying to a combat environment, so it is recommended that you have an updated copy of each document prior to deploying.

9. How long are deployments?

This depends on mission requirements and the hiring organization. Typically, no deployment is scheduled to be fewer than 30 days or exceed 13 months. The job announcement should provide more detailed information regarding the length of your deployment.

10. What hours will I be expected to work?

This varies depending on your specific mission. The workweek and hours of duty are set by the theater Commander or theater supervisor. Often, overtime hours and weekend hours are expected and you will be compensated for these hours accordingly. To learn more about your specific hours while deployed you should contact your servicing Human Resources Specialist.

11. Where will I deploy from?

This depends on the organization that hired you. Currently, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) deploys out of the USACE Deployment Center (UDC); Department of Defense (DoD) CEW

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employees currently deploy out of Camp Atterbury; and most Department of Army (DA) Civilians deploy out of the CONUS Replacement Center (CRC) located at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

12. *How do I obtain my deployment orders?*

This would depend on your deploying organization. Orders will be prepared by the parent organization if the Department of the Army (DA) Civilian is deploying to support an DoD CEW requirement unless the employee is a new employee (Schedule A appointee), in which case, the orders will be prepared by the hiring organization.

13. *What can I bring with me on deployment?*

This varies depending on the specific location to which you will be deploying and your specific mission requirements and expectations. You will likely be allowed to bring some personal items, but you should contact your servicing Human Resources Specialist, hiring official, or supervisor for more details.

14. *What is the difference between TCS and TDY assignments?*

A Temporary Change of Station (TCS) means the relocation to a new official station for a temporary period while performing a long-term assignment, and subsequent return to the previous official station upon completion of that assignment.

A Temporary Duty (TDY) location is a place, away from an employee's official station, where the employee is authorized to travel.

15. *What is the difference in pay and entitlements for TCS and TDY assignments?*

If you are on a TCS assignment, you are authorized Non-Temporary Storage (NTS) of household goods and may be authorized Separate Maintenance Allowance (SMA). You are also authorized all other pay benefits as if you were on a TDY assignment except you are not authorized locality pay. This will impact the amount you can earn with special pay benefits such as Danger pay, Hazardous Duty pay, Post Differential pay, and Relocation/Recruitment incentives: these pay benefits will be computed using ONLY your base pay.

If you are on a TDY assignment, you are NOT authorized SMA or NTS of household goods. You are authorized all other pay benefits. If you are on a TDY assignment, you are authorized locality pay. This will impact the amount you can earn with special pay benefits such as Danger Pay, Hazardous Duty Pay, Post Differential pay and Relocation/Recruitment incentives: these pay benefits will be computed using your base pay AND locality pay.

****See [CEW Frequently Asked Questions](#) and other [DCS Stage pages](#) for additional questions/answers and other information.****