

CEW DCS Mobilization Stage FAQs

1. 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.

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

3. What if I require any kind of medical care while in theater?

Civilians requiring treatment while deployed are eligible for medical evacuation and healthcare treatment and services in Military Treatment Facilities (MTF). Such treatment will be at the same level and scope as provided to military members and will be at no cost to the employee

Civilians may be entitled to medical and disability benefits under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA). If not covered by the FECA, civilian medical coverage is subject to provisions of the health insurance provider.

Illnesses/diseases (heart attack, stroke, cancer, skin disease, psychiatric illness, etc.) require persuasive medical rationale that the claimed medical condition was caused by employment factors. Simply being at work or in a theater of operations when a medical condition arises does not constitute a factor of employment (e.g. having a heart attack while sitting at a computer in an air conditioned office building would not be covered by the FECA – unless some factor of employment that precipitated the heart attack occurred).

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Upon return from theater, DoD civilian employees who were treated in theater continue to be eligible for treatment in an MTF until their condition is stabilized or they choose to be treated at a civilian medical facility, if they have filed a claim for FECA benefits and it has been accepted by the Office of Workers' Compensation Program (OWCP).

DoD civilian employees are also eligible for treatment in an MTF or a civilian medical facility if a medical condition (caused by employment factors while deployed) surfaces after they return from deployment. Medical costs are paid by OWCP if the claim for FECA benefits is approved by OWCP.

4. What is CIVTRACKS? How do I get an ID and password?

CIVTRACKS is a system for tracking Department of Army (DA) Civilian movements while deployed. All deployed DA Civilians must update CIVTRACKS throughout their deployment. To enter data, access CIVTRACKS through the website. If you are a CAC holder, you will be prompted to enter your CAC PIN; otherwise a password and user ID is required and will be provided to you by CIVTRACKS personnel after you submit your request. The CIVTRACKS website is linked here: [CIVTRACKS](#).

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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,

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Post Differential pay and Relocation/Recruitment incentives: these pay benefits will be computed using your base pay AND locality pay.

8. *Will I be able to have my household goods stored at government expense while deployed?*

If you are on a TCS assignment, you will be authorized Non-Temporary Storage (NTS) of household goods while deployed. This benefit will stop at the beginning of the second month upon your return from your deployment. If you are on a TDY assignment, you are not authorized NTS of household goods.

9. *Will I be authorized Separate Maintenance Allowance (SMA)?*

You will be eligible for SMA ONLY if you are on a TCS assignment and meet the established criteria for SMA. If you are on a TDY assignment, you will not be eligible for SMA. For details on SMA, see the corresponding State Department website linked here: [State Department SMA](#).

10. *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 deployees 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.

11. *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.

12. *Will I be issued a weapon?*

Most Department of Army (DA) Civilians are not issued a weapon. Combatant Commanders or Task Force Commanders will determine if circumstances warrant the issuance of weapons to civilians. For further information, contact your servicing Human Resources Specialist or hiring official.

13. *What kind of equipment will I be issued?*

You will be issued whatever equipment is essential for the performance of your job and the safe completion of your mission. Department of Army (DA) Civilians are authorized to be issued military uniforms and protective equipment. Some Commands may have their own uniforms or different requirements so it is best to inquire with your servicing Human Resources Specialist or supervisor regarding uniform and equipment details. All DA Civilians are also provided with individual body armor (IBA) and corresponding helmets for protection purposes.

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