

CEW DCS Deployment Stage FAQs

1. *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.

2. *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.

3. *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.

4. *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

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would not be covered by the FECA – unless some factor of employment that precipitated the heart attack occurred).

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.

5. *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.

6. *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.

7. *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](#).

8. *How do I calculate overtime when traveling into theater?*

Overtime is not accrued when traveling into theater. Travel compensation time is earned when traveling into theater for deployment and returning on reintegration. For additional information see the Office of Personnel Management's Compensatory Time Off for Travel guidance at [OPM Time Off for Travel](#).

9. *How long is travel compensation time earned during deployment travel and reintegration travel valid (last on the book)?*

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After earning compensatory time off, the employee must use their accrued compensatory time off for travel by the end of the 26th pay period after the pay period in which it was credited or the employee must forfeit the comp time except under certain circumstances.

10. *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.

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