



# Command Sponsorship and Family Travel

## What is Command Sponsorship?

1. When a Soldier receives assignment orders to move overseas, he or she will receive orders which are either Accompanied (with dependents) or Unaccompanied (without dependents). Family members must be Command Sponsored to be eligible for a fully funded move overseas.

**The Soldier's new command must approve Command Sponsorship.**

## What does Command Sponsorship provide?

1. Housing Eligibility

2. Travel: Funded travel for all family members. Without Command Sponsorship, family members must pay all travel expenses. Approval of Command Sponsorship prior to the Soldiers arrival in Europe will allow for concurrent travel, in which family members will travel with the Soldier.

3. Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA): Funding provided for up to ten days of lodging while the Family is searching for a house. Note, Soldier may receive TLA allotments for multiple 10 day periods.

4. Household Goods Shipment: Accompanied Soldiers will have a greater weight allowance than single/unaccompanied Soldiers.

5. Employment: On post employment is only offered to command sponsored dependents.

6. Schooling: Dependent children must be command sponsored to attend DODDs schools.

7. Visas: Command Sponsorship guarantees SOFA status for immigrant residency. Without Command Sponsorship you must use a tourist visa and get permission from the host nation for residency.

8. Postal Service: Command sponsored families are eligible for on post mail delivery.

9. Post Facilities: Command sponsored family members are eligible to use post facilities, including the Commissary, Post Exchange, Gymnasiums, and Medical and Dental Clinics.

## How does a Soldier apply for Command Sponsorship?

1. Soldiers that arrive unaccompanied to Germany must coordinate with their unit S1 Section to submit a packet requesting Command Sponsorship. Unit level packet preparation should require no more than three weeks. Soldiers who are approved for Command Sponsorship must complete a 3-year accompanied tour in USAREUR, which starts on the day Command Sponsorship is approved. The following documents are required in the Command sponsorship packet:

1. DA FORM 4187: This document is the actual request for Command Sponsorship and must be signed by the requesting Soldier and the Commander approving the Command Sponsorship.

2. Enlisted Record Brief (ERB): This document will be provided by the unit S1 Section.

3. DA FORM 5888 (Family Medical Screening): This is one of the most crucial documents for Command Sponsorship approval. See below for more detailed information about medical screening of family members.
4. DD FORM 2792: This document extends the Soldier's tour to 36 months with approval of the Command Sponsorship.
5. Marriage Certificate/Birth Certificates for all family members: notarized copies. Copies can be notarized at the Legal Center or by the Unit S1.
6. Proof of Custody Court Documents (As required): Minor dependents must reside with the Soldier a minimum of six months per year.
7. PCS Orders for Assignment to Germany

#### **How do my stateside family members complete required health screenings?**

1. Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) screenings for Command Sponsorship must be done properly to prevent unnecessary delay in completing the Command Sponsorship approval process.

**This process can take up to 90 days and should be started as soon as possible.**

2. Family members must coordinate with the nearest Army Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) or hospital. This facility will provide instructions on which military clinic or civilian provider (if the military installation is more than one hour away) will complete the required medical screening.

3. After Family members complete the medical screening, all documents must be forwarded to the Army hospital (stateside) for completion of the Army EFMP Review and to receive an official stamp.

**(Do not forward the documents to Germany until they have been reviewed and stamped. This is a common mistake and will delay the Command Sponsorship process. Medical paperwork cannot be stamped in Germany and will be returned to a stateside medical facility to complete the review process and receive the stamp. This will greatly delay completion of the Command Sponsorship process.)**

4. Contact the EFMP Program Manager at DSN 314-476-2881/2733 or commercial 09662-832881/2733 for any questions about the EFMP Screening process. The Program Manager can also answer questions concerning medical screenings for family member who are in countries other than the United States.