

EARLY RETURN OF DEPENDENTS

Sometimes the best interest of the Soldier, dependents, or the Government may require the dependents' early return travel to CONUS. There are several different ways a command sponsored dependent may return to CONUS on an Early Return of Dependents (ERD).

The approval authority for an early return of dependents is the Garrison Commander

Early Return of Military Dependents for Personal Reasons

Most commonly because of financial or marital difficulties

May be requested by the Soldier or the dependent, if the Soldier is not available or declines to initiate the request, or it may be command directed

IN USAREUR, BEFORE ISSUING ORDERS FOR THESE , COMMANDERS MUST DETERMINE THAT THE FAMILY'S PROBLEMS CANNOT BE RESOLVED IN THE OVERSEAS COMMAND. THE PROBLEMS MUST ALSO BE FOUND TO HAVE ARISEN AFTER ARRIVAL OCONUS

Early Return of Military Dependents for Personal Situations

Most commonly because of financial or marital difficulties. Other reasons include circumstances where essential medical treatment is not available in the overseas command or because of the death or illness of a dependent caring for minor dependents. Usually requested by the Soldier, but a dependent may request an ERD too, by submitting a DA Form 4187 through personnel. While a separation agreement IS NOT required to do an ERD, it may be included as substantiating proof of the marital difficulties. In the absence of a separation agreement, an affidavit verifying the marital difficulties can be included with the DA Form 4187. Once approved, travel and household goods shipment are scheduled. There may be costs associated with the household goods shipment depending on the location where they are sent. Once a Soldier has PCS orders, an ERD is not authorized.

Early Return of Civilian Employee Dependents for Personal Situations

May be authorized when the employee is eligible for return transportation after satisfactorily completing the minimum service period (usually 36 months) or when the OCONUS command determines that is in the best interests to return dependents for compelling reasons of a humanitarian or compassionate nature. The civilian employee submits a request for travel orders to initiate the process.

Early Return of Dependents due to Official Reasons

Applies to dependents of Soldiers or Civilian Employees. Usually due to situations involving misconduct or conduct embarrassing to the Government. USAREUR 27-9 provides the administrative framework for the action. Minimal due process is required. If the command believes an ERD is warranted, the sponsor is first requested to initiate it.