

TALKING PAPER

ON

AF JOIN SPOUSE ASSIGNMENTS

PURPOSE

- Provide a comprehensive definition and explanation of execution for the Air Force join spouse assignment program.

DISCUSSION

- The Air Force defines join spouse for assignment consideration if; a member is on extended active duty with the Air Force and their spouse is also on extended active duty with the Air Force or one of the other US military services (excludes military services of foreign countries)
 - The term “co-located couples” is not used in the join spouse program
- AF policy is to make every effort to assign military couples together
- Each member of a military couple serves in their own right, and:
 - Must fulfill the normal obligations expected of all AF members
 - Are considered for assignment to fill valid manning requirements and perform duties which require the skills in which they are trained and experienced
- Continental United States (CONUS) “join spouse” assignments are when the couple can maintain a joint residence with duty locations within a 50 mile radius.
- Overseas (OS) locations have numerous variables involved, such as weather and road conditions, cost of living, commute time, and availability of housing, etc. HQ AFPC, in coordination with the OS Major Commands (MAJCOMs), determine which OS locations are within a join spouse cluster (an adjacent area in which a joint household can be established). These clusters are considered when reviewing military couples for OS join spouse assignments
- Remotes or short tours...when assignments are to an OS locations where there are no government approved accompanied housing or where election of an accompanied tour is not an option for either member, they will not be assigned to the same location
 - Exception to Policy has been granted in some cases that benefit the Air Force and the member

- Policy updated in Apr 17: Involuntary separation of military couples, for Lt Col and below and SMSgt and below assignments (meeting specific parameters) will require approval by the AFPC/CC (previously provided to DACOWITS)
- Policy updated Feb 17: Involuntary separation of military couples, for Colonel and Chief Master Sergeant assignments (meeting specific parameters) will require approval by the AF/AI (previously provided to DACOWITS)