

Patrol Forces Southwest Asia (PATFORSWA)

TO KNOW Prior to Application:

TYPICAL NONRATE ASSIGNMENT

FA/FN and SA/SN are assigned to both shore side and cutter positions. Shore side non-rates are assigned to the Engineering Department. It is required that all non-rated personnel bring a full sea bag as upon completion of their tour they will be going to the next available "A" school.

RATINGS PRESENT

BM, DC, MK, EM, ET, FS, OS, YN, SK, IT, HS, GM, MST (RAID)

BENEFITS AND ENTITLEMENTS

Recent Change: As of 1 June 2014, members assigned to PATFORSWA are no longer eligible for Imminent Danger Pay (IDP). IDP was replaced with Hardship Duty Pay in the amount of 50 dollars per month. In addition, members will no longer be eligible for paid travel associated with Rest and Recuperation Leave.

Please see link below for further information regarding benefits and entitlements:
http://www.uscg.mil/directives/cim/7000-7999/CIM_7220_29B.pdf

Pre-Deployment Training

Prior to arriving in theater, you are required to successfully complete Pre-Deployment Training (PDT) located in Portsmouth VA and various training locations. You're required to complete your pre-deployment requirements (overseas screening, physical exam, weapons certification, online training and security clearance package (if applicable)) as soon as practical and must forward that information to YNC Tracie Hammonds at Tracie.G.Hammonds@uscg.mil or phone 757-295-2215 as per the Pre-Deployment Training Checklist. Members must meet the medical, training and fitness requirements for CENTCOM deployment.

TO KNOW Prior to PCS:

Required luggage/carry-on items:

- PCS orders
- Red passport
- Military ID
- Dog Tags
- Navy Type III's (place one set of uniform in carry-on) and issued items from PDT
- Operation Enduring Freedom Camouflage Patter (OCP) (RAID personnel only)

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Suggested packing items:

- Members are entitled to 500 lbs of unaccompanied baggage shipment. Members are not entitled to ship a personally owned vehicle.
- Bicycle: There are shops to get bicycles in the area but you are also welcome to ship one. Safety items required for bicycle use on base include: bell, front and rear lights, reflective running belt (or other reflective items), helmet, and bicycle lock.
- Set of tropics with combo cover
- Bed linens and blankets: Linens are provided but you may want your own. Mattresses are sized using the metric system so fitted sheets bought in the U.S. may not fit. Pillows are also provided but you may want to bring your own.
- Bath towels: not provided so bring your own or purchase them here.
- Shower shoes
- Decorations: Pictures and personalized items can help make your flat feel more like home. Be careful with electronics. Converters and surge protectors may be in your flat, left by previous tenants but the local system provides 220V. Check your electronics to ensure they can handle that type of power before using outlets.
- Clothing:
 - Climate for Bahrain during the summer months is hot and humid while the winter can be cold. Average temperature in the summer is 105 degrees and in the winter it's low 70s. Kuwait has a desert climate (hot and dry in the summer and cold in the winter). Average temperature in the summer is 111 degrees and in the winter it hits lows of 35 degrees.
 - Wicking-type clothing/linen: The summer is hot and humid. Linen and wicking-type clothing is recommended.
 - Ramadan-type clothing: See PATFORINST 1020.2 Military Uniform and Civilian Attire Standards.

Good info to know:

- If you are bringing a laptop/tablet/smart phone to access the internet via wifi it is suggested that you download a VPN service from the U.S. This will allow your computer to act like you are in the U.S. and access websites that are blocked by the Government of Bahrain like Netflix, Hulu and other various social media websites.
- Smartphone users can download apps like Vonage or MagicJack on their phones and will be able to make free calls back to the U.S. over wifi.
- See PATFORSWA CG Portal website for information regarding proper civilian and uniform attire, entitlements guide, Command Philosophy and other local instructions and standing orders.
<https://cgportal2.uscg.mil/units/patforswa/SitePages/Home.aspx>
- Education: There are opportunities for further education while deployed. There is a Navy College located on NSA Bahrain where members may attend college classes at night. Electronic Tuition Assistance request

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procedures are available through the ESO. The ESO also maintains a small study guide and leadership library which includes CLEP/DANTES/SAT/ACT study guides as well as language programs.