DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY CADET COMMAND AND FORT KNOX
204 1ST CAVALRY REGIMENT ROAD
FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY 40121-5123

ATCC-ST 30 April 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Cadet Summer Training (CST) Policy Memorandum 33 – Essential Unit Messing (EUM)

1. References.

a. Army Regulation 600-38, (The Meal Entitlement Management System), 01 November 2023.

b. The Joint Travel Regulation (JTR), Uniformed Service Members and DoD Civilian Employees.

c. Department of Defense 7000.14-R, Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation (DoD FMR), Volume 7A: Military Pay Policy – Active Duty and Reserve Pay.

d. Memorandum, Secretary of the Army, subject: Delegation of Authority to Act on Behalf of the Secretary of the Army under the Joint Travel Regulations, 19 December 2016.

e. Memorandum, Deputy Assistance Secretary of the Army (Military Personnel & Quality of Life), subject: Designation of Government Dining Facilities as Essential Unit Messing (EUM) for Soldiers on Temporary Duty at West Point, New York, and Fort Knox Kentucky in Support of the Annual Cadet Summer Training (CST) at Those Installations, 6 May 2022.

f. Memorandums, Commander, HQ United States Army Cadet Command (USACC) and Fort Knox, subject: Request for Exception to Policy to Essential Unit Messing Entitlement for Cadet Summer Training (CST), 24 March 2021 & 9 June 2021.

2. Purpose. This guide establishes information for soldiers assigned to EUM and attached to the United States Army Cadet Command (USACC) and TDY to Fort Knox, KY (FKKY) in support of CST.

3. Applicability:

a. In accordance with the JTR, EUM refers to using the Government dining facility (DFAC) as a unit or group and cannot be applied to an individual traveler. It may be

required for operational deployments or training for certain courses, when the Secretary concerned, the Combatant Commander, or the Joint Task Force (JTF) Commander determines that it is essential for accomplishing training and readiness or is necessary for military operations.

b. Under DoD 7000.14-R, EUM is group messing that is declared by an appropriate authority to be necessary for operational readiness, military operations, or effective training where members are required to eat Government–furnished meals. Members will be in travel status and are entitled to travel reimbursement for incidental expenses, but not for subsistence. Designation for EUM will apply only to organizational units and to operational elements and detachments, not to individual members. All members on duty under circumstances where EUM has been declared will be charged for all meals made available whether eaten or not, except for approved missed meals.

c. The office of the Secretary of the Army has declared EUM at Government dining facilities at FKKY for Service Members TDY to FKKY in support of Advanced and Basic Camp. Therefore, these Service Members will be in EUM duty status. Essential Unit Messing is the most effective method to accomplish messing because of the over 50 distinct categories of personnel present for the CST mission.

d. Under EUM, the government provides meals to a Service Member, and the Meals and Incidental Expenses (M&IE) reimbursement is reduced to only the applicable incidental expenses ($5.00 per day, $150.00 for 30 days). The DFAC will require no cash collection for this method of subsistence.

e. EUM applies to Service Members TDY to FKKY in support of Advanced and Basic Camp training. EUM does not apply to Service Members assigned to FKKY who are not in a TDY status and will not have their CACs coded for EUM. However, they may consume meals in one of the Cadre dining facilities on a pay-as-you-go status at the government rate.

f. Soldiers TDY to FKKY in support of Advanced and Basic Camp training are strongly encouraged to consume all meals in a government dining facility since their pay accounts will be decremented for all available meals, whether the meals are consumed by the Soldier or not. Soldiers will accumulate a debt of $13.65 daily for the duration of their CST duty ($409.50 for 30 days). Payroll deductions will be scheduled through the Soldier’s parent unit to occur monthly, throughout the CST tour of duty, rather than in a retroactive lump sum, to lessen the impact to Soldiers’ finances and to facilitate their individual budgeting.

g. In accordance with the JTR, Soldiers are entitled to 75% of their per diem entitlement on travel days. Soldiers in an EUM status will retain their Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS).

h. Soldiers assigned to FKKY who are not in EUM status should plan accordingly for meals in the field because there will be no opportunity to pay-as-you-go for meals in that environment.

i. Distinguished Visitors (DV) to CST will not be subject to EUM. All DV meals will be coordinated through USACC Executive Services Division (ESD). The ESD will ensure any cash collections DV meals are completed in conjunction with the visit and submitted to the appropriate accounting agent. The request and funding for DV meals must be submitted to the FKKY Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) 72 hours in advance, or these DV meals will be paid for in cash at the Dining Facility.

j. Soldiers on EUM who require religious or dietary accommodations will request vegetarian, Kosher, or Halal Meals Ready-to-Eat (MREs) in writing to the USACC G4 planner (Mr. Erwin Ida, erwin.l.ida.civ@army.mil) no later than 15 March 2026. Requests for Kosher or Halal MREs must be accompanied by a memo from the CST/USACC Chaplain validating the requirement. Diners may choose vegetarian items at Kouma or Sprocket I dining facilities and vegetarian MREs are available. All other religious or dietary exemptions must be processed through the Soldier's BDE S1 prior to arrival at CST.

k. EUM will not apply to DA Civilians or contracted personnel supporting CST. Civilian personnel will be traveling in a TDY status and will receive the corresponding per diem meal rate IAW the JTR. Messing for contractors will be provided in accordance with their contract. Per Fort Knox Garrison policy, DA Civilians and contractors are prohibited from eating in FKKY Dining Facilities. Exempted individuals are entitled to a FULL MEAL RATE in the Defense Travel System (DTS).

l. The following assignments are also exempt from EUM due to mission requirements: the Airport Reception Team; Military Police; Air Medevac Team; Chaplains requiring special dietary considerations; Nurse LNOs, and Executive Services Escorts. Exempted individuals are entitled to a FULL MEAL RATE in the Defense Travel System (DTS).

4. Responsibilities:

a. Service Members and DTS Approving Officials (AOs) will ensure DTS Travel authorizations reflect the Government Meal Provided meal rate, reducing M&IE to the incidental rate of $5/day for all non-travel days, and 75% M&IE for travel days.

b. Brigade S-1s will ensure Soldiers' CACs are coded to indicate they are under EUM prior to arrival to CST, to eat at the dining facility without paying cash. FKKY dining facilities will not accept meal cards from Soldiers supporting CST. Soldiers currently on Subsistence-In-Kind (SIK) at their home station must be placed in an EUM

status and have the appropriate collection initiated by their parent unit for their CST tour of duty.

c. Local finance procedures require a DA Form 4187 or an IPPS-A mass submission indicating the period of EUM status. Brigade S-1s will process the initiation and termination of meals collection on each Soldier TDY in support of CST, approved by the Soldier's Unit Commander, and processed IAW supporting Army Military Pay Office (AMPO) requirements and DoD Financial Management Regulation (FMR), Table 25-1, note 3.

d. Soldiers that miss an EUM meal due to mission requirements will complete DD Form 1475 (Basic Allowance for Subsistence Certification) (not authorized for meals not consumed due to personal preference). DoD FMR states members who have missed meals, as certified by the commander or their designee, will have collections suspended or adjusted with credit. Missed meals requests must be submitted through the home organization to the Soldier's supporting AMPO within 5 working days of completing duty. Missing an EUM meal will not necessarily result in the ability to obtain preferred food options in a timely manner.

e. The CST G-1 will validate that Soldiers' CACs are properly coded during in/out-processing. Failure to have CACs properly coded will result in Soldiers paying cash for meals in government dining facilities while payroll deductions remain in effect. The G1 planners are working to make this coding a viable option but issues with CAC certificates remain to be resolved. If Soldier CACs cannot be encoded, they will be instructed during in-processing to retain a copy of their orders for Dining Facility access (which will significantly slow down the line), or risk being required to pay for meals.

5. Point of contact for this memorandum is Mr. Sydney Hunte, CST G1 Plans, at 502-624-3115 and email: sydney.w.hunte.civ@army.mil.

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