Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS) - General Policies

1. Basic Policy. Normally, enlisted members are subsisted-in-kind. For uniformity in making determinations, government messes available in the geographical area must be used to the fullest extent compatible with economy and efficiency, per references (a) and (b).

2. Responsible Commanding Officer (RCO) Responsibilities

   a. Authorizing basic allowance for subsistence (BAS):

      (1) The RCO is charged with ensuring that commands serviced by his or her mess(es) are authorized BAS per consistently applied policies as set forth in this article, commensurate with efficient operation of mess(es) involved.

      (2) When more than one installation having a government mess is located within the same geographical area, the RCOs shall confer to ensure uniform determinations on the authorization of BAS.

   b. Determining Availability of Government Mess: The commanding officer (CO) of the installation at which the member is performing duty shall make the determination of when a government mess is in fact not available per guidance contained in this article and reference (b).

   c. Auditing and Reverifying BAS Authorizations: Annual audits and reverification of all BAS authorizations are
required. COs and RCOs shall incorporate BAS audits into local management control programs.

3. **Basic Allowance for Subsistence Continuation Policy.** Basic allowance for subsistence authorizations continue in effect so long as circumstances leading to the approval of BAS remain unchanged, and the member is still assigned to the command which approved or endorsed the request. If the member is transferred to another command, even when the new command is under the cognizance of the same RCO, the request must be resubmitted.

4. **Unit CO/Officer in Charge (OIC) Responsibilities**
   
   a. **Determining when use of government mess is impracticable due to location:** The unit CO or OIC, with the concurrence of the RCO, shall make the determination of when the use of an available government mess is impracticable due to location of the mess in relation to the member’s place of duty per guidance contained in this article and reference (b).

   b. **Determining when use of government mess is impracticable due to duties or unusual work hours:** The unit CO or OIC, with the concurrence of the RCO, shall determine if the member’s duties or unusual work hours prevent the member from eating all or certain meals in a government mess.

5. **Office of Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV), Military Personnel Plans and Policy Division (N13) Responsibility.** OPNAV (N13) has been designated by Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) as the only authority that may make a determination of impracticability due to adverse effects on a member’s assigned mission.

   a. Requests for BAS in these cases shall be forwarded to OPNAV (N13) via the member’s CO and the RCO.

   b. The entitlement shall be at the “government messing not available” rate.

6. **Limitation on Authority of Naval Vessel COs to Grant BAS.** COs of naval vessels, normally equipped with messing facilities which become inoperable due to decommissioning, overhaul, or other maintenance availability, are not authorized to automatically grant BAS. Refer to MILPERSMAN 7220-180 for specific procedures.
7. **Prorated Subsistence Allowances.** Military members may not be provided meals or rations at no charge by or on behalf of the government while entitled to BAS for the same period of service, except when a patient is in the hospital.

8. **BAS During Contingency Operations.** Refer to reference (b) for procedures for BAS during contingency operations.