



ARMY FOOD PROGRAM

OBJECTIVE: To provide Soldiers with food options that are healthy, convenient, accessible, and geared toward where, when, and what they want to meet their dining needs and preferences.

WHAT IS BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR SUBSISTENCE (BAS)?

- A DoD-wide monthly allowance for service members who've completed basic training to cover costs of meals, groceries, and other food-related expenses.
- BAS rate is adjusted yearly to reflect changes in the price of food.

WHAT IS ESSENTIAL STATION MESSING?

- A DOD-required program for services to provide three meals to enlisted service members living in the barracks.
- It is uniformly applied across the same installation; exceptions are only based on missing meals because of duty.
- Each service reduces BAS in ESM Soldier's pay account at the discounted meal rate so they can eat in the DFAC, leaving approximately \$65 to use at their discretion.


HOW DOES THE ARMY BUDGET FOR DFACS?

- Funding is requested from Congress to support forecasted DFAC requirements based on historical usage data.
- The Army also requests additional funds from Congress to operate the DFACs and other modernization efforts.

MODERNIZATION EFFORTS

- 27 Food Trucks across 15 installations
- Meal-Prep Program across 18 installations
- 25 Self-service kiosks across 14 installations
- Army Campus Style Dining Venue pilots at Fort Bragg, Fort Stewart, Fort Cavazos, Fort Drum and Fort Carson

QUICK FACTS

Congress passed a law in 2002 mandating full BAS Entitlement for all services 




Active-duty service members in all branches of the military receive BAS (with a few exceptions e.g. Basic Trainees)

FY25 Monthly BAS Rates
Enlisted - \$465.77
Officers - \$320.78




DoD policy requires BAS deduction whether Soldiers choose to eat in DFACs or not

Soldiers who miss meals because of duty can submit reimbursement requests using DD Form 1475 



BAS is not deducted while on: Leave, PCS, Hospitalization, or TDY

BAS deductions are based on the daily discounted meal rate of \$13.20 



DFAC Managers order food based on the number of troops that historically dine at installation facilities



U.S. ARMY