

1.5.3 POST DIFFERENTIAL ALLOWANCE

The tax-free Post Differential Allowance (PDA) - FSD58 - is designed to encourage you to serve at Hardship Posts. It provides you with monetary compensation for undesirable local conditions which, for the most part, cannot be alleviated. After 24 months of continuous service at one or more Hardship posts, you are entitled to begin receiving a 50% increase in the applicable PDA.

Every so often, Posts are asked to complete a special Rating Form which allows "hardships" to be described in terms of Isolation, Local Conditions, Climate and Environment, Health, Medical Care, Violence and Hostility. These forms are then sent to Ottawa where they are carefully assessed by an Interdepartmental Hardship Posts committee. Based on relative numerical ratings, posts are designated in one of four hardship levels - Level I indicating the least significant hardship and Level IV the most difficult. (Non-hardship posts are referred to as A-level posts.) A complete and up to date listing of hardship posts is contained in the Schedules To Foreign Service Directives And Meal Rates, revised and distributed monthly by APRA.

Table III shows how the PDA varies according to family size and post hardship level. Like the Foreign Service Premium, the PDA Table will be updated each year to reflect changes in public service salaries.

TABLE III
POST DIFFERENTIAL ALLOWANCE

<u>Family Configuration</u>	<u>Level of Hardship</u>			
	I	II	III	IV
Unaccompanied	1200	1800	2400	3600
Accompanied by 1 Dependent	1500	2250	3000	4500
Accompanied by 2 or more Dependents	1800	2700	3600	5400