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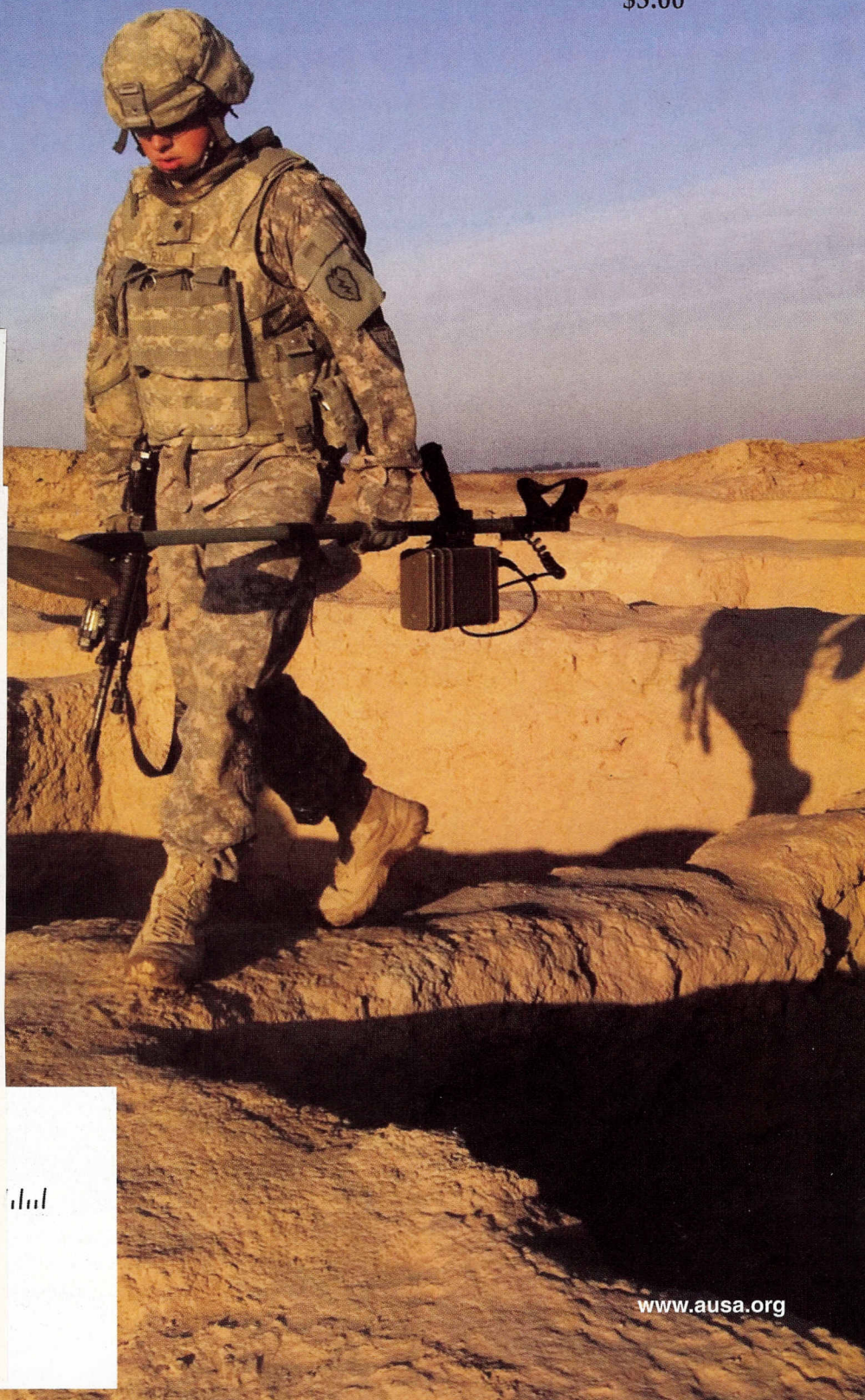
February 2009

\$3.00

2009 BAH Rates. New 2009 Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates took effect on January 1. The average housing allowance increased by 6.9 percent. BAH increases for soldiers with dependents average \$95 a month. For example, a typical junior enlisted member with dependents will receive a BAH of about \$68 a month higher than last year, while a senior NCO with dependents will receive an increase of about \$93.

BAH rates are computed based on three components: median current market rent, average utilities and average renter's insurance. First, total housing costs are calculated for six housing profiles, based on the type of dwelling and number of bedrooms, in each military housing area. Then, the BAH rates are calculated for each pay grade for members with and without dependents.

In 2009, nearly 950,000 servicemembers will be paid an estimated total of \$17.4 billion. Individual rates are protected in the BAH program. An individual soldier in a given location will never see a BAH rate decrease no matter what happens to housing costs there. If the area's housing costs decrease, for example, a soldier who has made long-term commitments by signing a lease or contract will not be penalized. For more information on BAH, visit <http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/bah.html>. ★



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