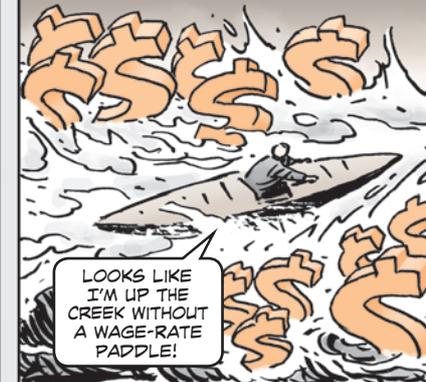
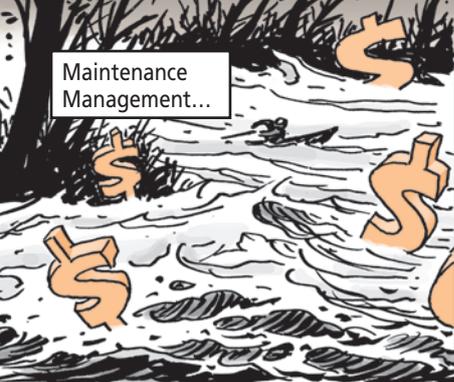


Maintenance Management...



# Are You Boxed-in by SAMS-E Wage Blanks?

Dear Half-Mast,  
I'm trying to find the financial man-hour wage rates to load into the SAMS-E boxes for our units. Nobody has any idea where to find this information. Can you help?

Mr. J.M.

Dear Mr. J.M.,

As you've discovered, SAMS-E doesn't control or dictate any labor rates you input. SAMS-E isn't supposed to be a financial accounting system, but it does have built-in personnel cost functions for funds management.

Any labor-associated costs in the Army are based on personnel categories—military, civilian, contractor or local national rates.

But these rates can vary widely by location, and even within identical job descriptions when you add in factors like grades/ranks, time in service, or contract costs. This means there are no set rules, and no single source for getting wage-rate data that applies Army-wide.

So, does this mean you're up a creek without a wage-rate paddle? Not at all!

First, talk to your unit's financial division to get some local guidance. Remember, while military and civilian labor rates are set at a national level, contractor and local national labor rates vary. Your unit's official contracting representative can give you contract-specific labor rates.

There's also an official website to help solve wage-rate puzzles. The Army Military-Civilian Cost System (AMCOS) has average salaries, overhead costs and related data by career fields for military, government, contractor and private sector jobs.

You'll need to register for an AMCOS account the first time, but once it's synched up with your AKO, you're golden. Check it out:

<https://www.osmisweb.army.mil/amcos/app/home.aspx>

AMCOS also covers life cycle cost estimates for weapon systems and other personnel and economic data. The information on this helpful website can help fill the wage-rate gap that exists in today's maintenance systems. AMCOS gives SAMS-E users a baseline, so they can more accurately project labor costs.

Half-Mast

Training...

## BREAKING DOWN LANGUAGE BARRIERS



IN SOME SITUATIONS, THERE ISN'T TIME TO CALL IN A TRANSLATOR.

BRUSHING UP ON LANGUAGE SKILLS BEFORE YOU DEPLOY WILL HELP YOU CONFIDENTLY NAVIGATE UNFAMILIAR WATERS.

YOU CAN ALSO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPRESSION IN YOUR HOST COUNTRY.



To help you meet new pre-deployment language training requirements, the Army's Rosetta Stone® program has added six more languages to its offerings. The latest additions are Dari, Pashto, Iraqi Arabic, Urdu, Swahili and Indonesian. These courses are the military editions, so they include an additional unit of instruction that teaches military-specific terms and commands. The language exercises also include military scenarios. All Active Duty, National Guard, Army Reserve Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians can access free training for 31 languages through the Army e-Learning website: <http://usarmy.skillport.com>