

APPENDIX O

TEMPORARY DUTY (TDY) TRAVEL ALLOWANCES

This Appendix contains a summary of travel and transportation allowances for business, training and deployment TDY. This Appendix does not contain all of the information required. Consult JFTR/JTR, Chs 1 to 4 for further details.

T4000 INTRODUCTION

A. Application. In this APP:

1. Except where differences are identified, the allowances and responsibilities apply equally to a uniformed member and a DoD civilian employee and any other non DoD GOV'T employee working for DoD and paid travel allowances funded by DoD; and
2. "Authorizing official" or "AO" means the individual who:
 - a. Controls the mission,
 - b. Authorizes the trip, and,
 - c. Controls funds for TDY travel (APP A1).

B. Common TDY Travel Types. This APP:

1. Is a summary of the travel and transportation allowances and responsibilities of a traveler who performs the most common TDY travel types as authorized by law for a uniformed member, DoD civilian employee and any non DoD GOV'T employee working for DoD and paid travel allowances funded by DoD;
2. Covers individual:
 - a. travel for business,
 - b. travel for schoolhouse training,
 - c. deployment or personnel traveling together via no/limited reimbursement, and,
 - d. certain travel under special circumstances.
3. Is to be used ICW the JFTR and JTR where more detailed allowances are prescribed.
4. Is to be used for ITAs. See also JFTR/JTR, APP E.

C. Special Circumstances and Categories Travel. JFTR/JTR, Ch 7, not this APP, contains provisions for travel of:

1. Senior ROTC;
2. RC member travel for medical and dental care;
3. Retirees called to active duty;
4. A Ready RC member authorized muster duty allowance;
5. ADT tours of 140 or more days at one location (except as noted in JFTR, par. U2240-B) and active duty for

other than training for more than 180 days at one location (except when due to unusual circumstances per diem has been authorized IAW JFTR, par. U7150-A4b(3)).

D. PCS Move Travel. *TDY, performed as part of a PCS move (i.e., TDY en route), is not paid through DTS.*

E. Evacuations. See JFTR/JTR, Ch 6.

T4005 APPROPRIATE ACTION FOR FAILURE TO FOLLOW JFTR/JTR

Commands/units are expected to take appropriate disciplinary action when a traveler and/or an AO fails to follow JFTR/JTR. Disciplinary action should be for *willful* violations and may be in the form of counseling (oral/written), or non-judicial action (uniformed member), or other personnel means (civilian employee). Action must *not* be through refusal to reimburse (par. T4025-A4 when reimbursement is *not* allowed).

T4010 REIMBURSEMENT RATE

Rates for private conveyance mileage reimbursement rates are found in JFTR, par. U2600/JTR, par. C2600. GOV'T dining facility/mess food and operating expense rates are found in JFTR/JTR, APP A, Government Meal Rate. Per diem rates by location showing the lodging, meals and IE components are provided by the DTMO (<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/perdiemCalc.cfm>).

T4020 TDY TRAVEL POLICY

A. Criteria for TDY Travel. TDY travel is mission support. TDY travel is performed when there is no other means to successfully complete the mission. When the mission can be achieved by another means, such as written correspondence or teleconferencing, the AO must choose that method.

B. Traveler Rights and Responsibilities

1. A traveler must follow JFTR/JTR, and use good judgment in incurring official travel related expenses, as if traveling using personal funds (JFTR, par. U2000/JTR, par. C2000).

2. A traveler is provided transportation, lodging, and food, or must be reimbursed promptly for reasonable and necessary authorized expenses if the traveler purchases them. An AO must authorize/approve reimbursement for other travel related expenses appropriate to the mission.

3. It is *mandatory* that the traveler arranges commercial transportation, rental vehicles (if authorized/approved), through an available CTO or in-house travel arranger per JFTR, par. U2400/JTR, par. C2400 ([CBCA 2956-TRAV, 31 January 2013](#)). DTS estimates the total cost for the trip (a "should cost" estimate) forming the estimated reimbursement basis.

4. It is *mandatory* that the traveler makes the official travel and transportation arrangements through the CTO. Only in extremely unusual circumstances in which the traveler cannot communicate with the CTO should the CTO not be used. A traveler:

a. Who does not use a CTO or the GTCC to purchase transportation must submit the ticket receipt (if \$75 or more) for reimbursement (*NOTE: A receipt must be submitted for each transportation ticket of \$75 or more for which reimbursement is desired regardless of how acquired, except that a ticket received in exchange for frequent traveler benefits is not reimbursable and should not be submitted.*),

b. Must use economy/coach accommodations for all official GOV'T funded travel, unless 'other than economy/coach' accommodations are authorized before/approved after travel at the appropriate level listed in JFTR, par. U3510 /JTR, par. C3510. Reason for use examples, when authorized/approved:

(1) Medical reasons – See JFTR, par. U2110-J/JTR, par. C2110-J, or

- (2) Mission requirement - TDY mission timing requires 'other than economy/coach'. When 'other than economy/coach' TDY transportation is authorized/approved because the mission timing is "so urgent it cannot be postponed," 'other than economy/coach' transportation should only be authorized on the way to the TDY site. Economy/coach accommodations use should be annotated on the trip record and used for the return transportation if the return timing is not critical and the traveler can rest before reporting back to work. See JFTR, par. U3510 /JTR, par. C3510.
- c. Must **not** use foreign flag transportation, even if U.S. certificated air flag carrier fares are higher,
- d. Who uses other than economy/coach or a foreign flag transportation presumably at GOV'T expense (i.e., reimbursable) must provide to the AO adequate acceptable justification that meets the JFTR/JTR requirements for reimbursement (see par. T4020-B9 for non-reimbursable expenses), and
- e. Should promptly update the Trip Record, and confirm/modify arrangements when communication with the CTO was not possible.
5. Each traveler is advised, in advance, of the allowances, arrangements, probable expenses, and an estimate of what should be reimbursed.
6. A traveler should use a GTCC. The policies and procedures for the GTCC program (including central billing and unit cards) are found in the DoDFMR (DoD 7000.14-R), Volume 9, "Travel Policy and Procedures" (<http://www.dtic.mil/comptroller/fmr/>).
7. When using the DTS for TDY over 45 days, a request for scheduled partial payments should be included with the order so the traveler is paid every 30 days. This helps to ensure the traveler is paid for expenses prior to GTCC bill receipt.
8. A traveler must comply with Federal and Departmental ethics rules when accepting travel benefits (i.e., goods, services or payment) from non Federal sources. For DoD, Joint Ethics Regulation, DoD 5500.7-R, Ch 4. For Coast Guard, COMDTINST M5370.8 (series). For NOAA Corps, Department of Commerce Administrative Order 202-735. For Public Health Service, Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual CC26.1, Inst 1. A traveler may keep items of nominal value (as defined in applicable ethics regulations). A traveler also may keep benefits received for voluntarily vacating a seat on an overbooked flight, but should not vacate the seat if the GOV'T would incur additional costs or if it would affect the mission (Seat Relinquishing – par. T4020-B9c).
9. Non-Reimbursable Expenses
- a. General. The JFTR/JTR addresses "reimbursable" allowances funded by the GOV'T. Non-reimbursable expenses, for goods or services obtained through personal purchase, or under the same conditions as those offered to the general public and at no additional GOV'T cost, does not require authorization/approval, but is still not reimbursable regardless of the AO's authorization/approval. Pars. T4020-B9b through T4020-B9d provide clarification.
- b. Promotional Materials/Benefits
- (1) A traveler on official business traveling at GOV'T expense AGENCY (APP A1) funds may keep promotional material (including frequent traveler benefits, such as points or miles, upgrades, or access to carrier clubs or facilities) for personal use.
- (2) The promotional material must be obtained under the same terms as those offered to the general public and must be at no additional GOV'T cost. Examples include vendor provided complimentary upgrades to rooms or transportation accommodations and upgrades 'purchased' using frequent traveler benefits and/or personal unreimbursed funds.

(3) Promotional benefits or materials received from a travel service provider ICW planning and/or scheduling an official conference or other group travel (as opposed to performing official travel) are considered GOV'T property, and may only be accepted on the GOV'T's behalf.

(4) Promotional items received for travel using funds other than those of an agency are not covered by this rule. The traveler should seek guidance from the funding authorities.

c. Seat Relinquishing

(1) Voluntary. A traveler may keep payments from a carrier for voluntarily vacating a transportation seat. However, no additional expenses (per diem or reimbursable) may be paid as a result of the traveler's delay. ***Additional travel expenses incurred as a result of voluntarily giving up a seat are the traveler's financial responsibility.***

(2) Involuntarily. If a traveler is involuntarily denied boarding on a flight, compensation for the denied seat belongs to the GOV'T (59 Comp. Gen. 203 (1980)). The traveler must request that the carrier shows the "Treasurer of the United States" as payee on the compensation check and forward the payment according to Service/Agency directives.

d. Lost, Delayed, or Damaged Accompanied Baggage. A traveler may keep payments from a commercial carrier for accompanied baggage that has been lost, delayed, or damaged by the carrier. If the traveler intends to make a claim against the GOV'T for the loss, delay, or damage, the traveler should see the Claims Office prior to accepting a carrier's compensation. By accepting the carrier's compensation, the traveler may be accepting that amount as payment in full. (31 USC §3721, The Personnel Claims Act, P. L. 88-558 for reimbursement claims when the traveler has not been compensated by the carrier for lost or damaged baggage.)

10. Each traveler must be treated as an honest, responsible customer, and must follow JFTR/JTR. The DoDFMR, Vol. 9, JFTR, par. U2705/JTR, par. C2705, apply when a fraudulent claim submission is suspected.

T4025 ARRANGING OFFICIAL TRAVEL

A. CTO Use

1. Mandatory Policy

a. It is MANDATORY DoD policy that all Uniformed Service member and DoD civilian travelers use an available DTMO contracted CTO, or a GSA contracted TMC (when a DTMO contracted CTO is not available) for all official transportation requirements (CBCA 2956-TRAV, 31 January 2013). The eligible traveler must contact the responsible Agency/Service designated official if there is not an available DTMO contracted CTO/GSA contracted TMC for the official travel. A command must not permit a CTO to issue other than the least expensive unrestricted economy/coach tickets purchased at GOV'T expense without prior proper authority (JFTR, pars. U2400, U3500, U3600, and U3650, and JTR, pars. C2400, C3500, C3600, and C3650 for exceptions).

b. A command must not permit a CTO to issue a YCA airfare purchased at GOV'T expense to a traveler when a _CA airfare is available and the AO determines that a _CA airfare meets mission needs.

NOTE: This does not establish the _CA as the basis for POLICY CONSTRUCTED AIRFARE – that remains the YCA airfare.

2. Service Issuances. DoD COMPONENT/Service issuances address CTO use.

3. Failure to Follow Regulations/Issuances. A command/unit is expected to take appropriate:

a. Disciplinary action when a traveler and/or an AO fails to follow the regulation issuances concerning

CTO use (par. T4005).

b. Action for reimbursement to the GOV'T when a traveler and/or AO allows a CTO to issue a YCA airfare when there is a _CA airfare available that meets mission needs. (CBCA 1511-TRAV, 7 May 2009.)

c. Disciplinary action for *willful* violations and may be in the form of counseling (oral/written), or non-judicial action (uniformed member), or other personnel means (civilian employee). Action must *not* be through refusal to reimburse (par. T4025-A4 when reimbursement is *not* allowed.)

4. Reimbursement Not Allowed. Reimbursement is *not allowed* when the traveler does not follow the JFTR/JTR for foreign flag carriers (par. T4025-C).

B. Requirements

1. When making travel arrangements, the traveler should use the following in priority order:

a. Services available at a DTMO contracted CTO (or GSA contracted TMC in the absence of a DTMO contracted CTO), or

b. In-house travel offices.

2. All travel arrangements must be made IAW:

a. DoDD 4500.09E, Transportation and Traffic Management, 11 September 2007 (<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/450009p.pdf>); and

b. Service issuances.

C. Foreign Ship or Aircraft Transportation. Transportation in foreign ships or aircraft of foreign registry must *not* be authorized/approved unless the conditions in par. T4060-B3 are met (JFTR, par. U3525-H/JTR, par. C3525-H).

D. Transportation Reimbursement

1. CTO Available. When a CTO is available, but not used by the traveler, reimbursement for the transportation cost is limited to the amount the GOV'T would have paid if the arrangements had been made directly through a CTO (CBCA 2956-TRAV, 31 January 2013).

2. CTO Not Available. When the AO certifies that a CTO was/is not available to arrange the required official transportation, reimbursement is for the authorized/approved transportation actual cost NTE the POLICY CONSTRUCTED AIRFARE (APP A) that meets mission requirements. ***NOTE: CTO service not being available should be an extremely rare occurrence. Each event of non-availability should lead to correction(s) that make CTO service available should the same situation arise again.***

NOTE: The cost paid by the GOV'T for GOV'T/GOV'T procured transportation, in house or CTO transportation, frequently includes a transaction fee for arranging the transportation. A CTO transaction fee incurred by a member/employee is reimbursable under APP G. When an available CTO is not used and no transaction fee is included in the GOV'T/GOV'T procured transportation, the transaction fee for personally procured transportation from other than a CTO may be reimbursed NTE the GOV'T/GOV'T procured transportation cost.

T4030 GETTING THERE AND BACK (TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCES)

*A. Transportation Mode. The AO may direct travel by a transportation specific mode (e.g., GOV'T or commercial air, bus, train) except the AO cannot require the traveler to use a personal or rental vehicle for official travel. ***If a certain mode is directed and another mode is used, transportation reimbursement is NTE the directed transportation mode cost. No other costs are added to the computation.***

B. Commercial Transportation. The Services must require that the CTO arrange commercial transportation IAW law, GOV'T policies, agreements and contracted rates using U.S. certificated carriers and economy/coach accommodations, whenever possible. The AO may, under certain conditions, authorize the CTO to arrange other than contract city pair flights, or to arrange non U.S. certificated carriers, or business (but not first) class accommodations (JFTR, par. U4326, **NOTE 1**/JTR, par. C4485, **NOTE 1**) when needed to fulfill a documented mission requirement as specified in par. T4060-B1. Only the officials listed in JFTR, pars. U3510, and U3620 (trains only)/JTR, pars. C3510, and C3620 (trains only), may authorize/approve business or first class accommodations use.

C. Special Conveyances (Includes Aircraft) Reimbursement. The AO may authorize an appropriately sized rental vehicle IAW mission needs when a compact rental car (the "standard" for TDY travel), does not meet requirements. ***It is mandatory to obtain rental vehicles (except for aircraft or bus) through the CTO per JFTR, par. U2400/JTR, par. C2400, when the CTO is available. When a special conveyance (particularly a rental vehicle or a 'taxi') must be used, sharing of the special conveyance by official travelers is encouraged to most efficiently use taxpayer dollars.*** When the AO authorizes special conveyance/rental vehicle use for official business, the following reimbursements are authorized IAW APP G.

1. Rental costs, tax and local assessments on rental vehicle users, necessary gas and oil, landing and tie-down fees, and transportation to/from the rental facility.

2. Parking; ferry fares; bridge, road and tunnel tolls; traveler access fee (when charged); GARS; garage (POC parking is a separate reimbursable expense), hangar or boathouse rental; operator's subsistence; and optional extra collision hull insurance for rental aircraft.

3. Snow tires and similar non-standard equipment necessary for travel when authorized/approved in the order. Reimbursement NTE the rental conveyance upgrade costs necessary for required non-standard equipment. Disregard of a special conveyance arranged by a CTO, requires justification for additional special conveyance costs before reimbursement (beyond the cost using the CTO). ***Reimbursement for purchase of snow tire and other non-standard items is not authorized.***

4. Mandatory rental car insurance coverage required in foreign countries.

*5. An approved claim for damage to a rental vehicle, while the rental vehicle is being used for official business, is reimbursable to either the traveler or the rental car vendor and shown as a reimbursable expense. The claim must be adjudicated as payable per the DoDFMR, Volume 9, Ch 4, (<http://www.dtic.mil/comptroller/fmr/>) (or appropriate Service issuances for the non-DoD Services). If damage is to a rental car under the DTMO rental car agreement, a DoD traveler may file an accident report at the DTMO website <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Rental/>. When the AO has not authorized/approved special conveyance use, reimbursement for rental car use is limited to the POC mileage rate in JFTR, par. U2600/JTR, par. C2600 for the official distance NTE the GOV'T's constructed cost. See JFTR, par. U4710-C/JTR, par. C4710-C.

NOTE 1: A traveler is not reimbursed for rental car insurance coverage purchased in the U.S. or in a non-foreign OCONUS location regardless of from whom the rental car is rented [CBCA 2956-TRAV, 31 January 2013](#).

NOTE 2: Reimbursement for personal funds paid for damage sustained by a rented automobile while being used on other than official business is not authorized.

NOTE 3: Some vehicles are not covered with liability and vehicle loss and damage insurance for the traveler or the GOV'T when rented for official GOV'T travel. To view appropriate rental car companies and rates go to the DTMO website (<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil>) and select Car/Truck Rental Programs in the left hand column. A vehicle listed in the rental car agreement on the DTMO website is covered under the DTMO rental car agreement. A vehicle, offered by a vendor that is under the DTMO rental car agreement but not listed on the DTMO list as a vehicle "in that category", does not have the full liability and vehicle loss and damage insurance coverage for the traveler and the GOV'T, and should not be rented for official GOV'T travel. Usually, there is at

least one vendor listed that has a vehicle available for official GOV'T travel and this vendor should be used.

D. GOV'T Transportation

1. The TO arranges international GOV'T airlift under AMC contract/control, when it is available and satisfies mission requirements.
2. The TO provides GOV'T ground transportation. (Within the Navy, GOVs are obtained directly from the providers, ordinarily Public Works.) Use GOV'T transportation only for official business to commute to/from the traveler's: TDY location, lodgings, dining facilities, and other locations for comfort and health reasons. If it is used for any other purpose, and the traveler has an accident, the traveler may be financially responsible. Use GOV'T servicing for the vehicle whenever possible. When GOV'T servicing is not available, the AO may authorize/approve reimbursement of actual vehicle operating expenses. These expenses include: gas and oil; parking fees; repairs; ferry fares; bridge, road or tunnel tolls; trip insurance for travel in foreign countries; guards; and storage fees.

*E. POC. When the AO authorizes/approves a POC as being to the GOV'T's advantage, reimbursement is authorized at the standard rate per mile for the POC type and the distance between duty locations or between home and TDY location(s) as appropriate. Reimbursement is authorized for parking fees, ferry fares, and road, bridge, and tunnel tolls for travel over a direct route. If the AO does not authorize/approve POC use as being to the GOV'T's advantage and one is used anyway, reimbursement is authorized at the standard rate per mile plus reimbursable expenses (parking fees, etc.) NTE the constructed cost of AO authorized transportation (e.g., commercial plane). See JFTR, par. U4710-C/JTR, par. C4710-C. In either case (to the GOV'T's advantage or not), reimbursement is only authorized for the traveler paying the POC operating expenses. When two or more official travelers travel in the same POC to the TDY location, the official traveler responsible for paying the POC operating expenses is authorized reimbursement for any additional distance involved if the official traveler passenger(s) is/are picked up/ dropped off at their homes. The extra distance is based on odometer readings (or other acceptable evidence) of the actual necessary extra distance traveled. If reimbursement at the published rate does not cover expenses, or if there is no established rate for the POC type being used, the AO may authorize/approve reimbursement of necessary transportation costs incurred for uniformed personnel. For distance determination (DTOD requirements), see JFTR, par. U2650-A/JTR, par. C2650-A. ***NOTE: PDTATAC has determined that POC (automobile or motorcycle only) use on TDY is to the GOV'T's advantage for TDY to locations within 800 miles (roundtrip) of the PDS as determined from DTOD (for DoD) and from appropriate distance sources for the non-DoD Services. There is no requirement for any cost comparison. A command may authorize POC (automobile or motorcycle only) use for TDY travel of 800 miles or less roundtrip (400 miles one way) at its discretion.***

F. Rest Stops. Normally, a traveler is not required to travel during unreasonable night hours. If the traveler is required to travel during normal sleeping hours, or the scheduled flight time, including stopovers and plane changes, exceeds 14 hours, and the traveler is not authorized first/business class accommodations, the AO may authorize/approve a rest stop en route or a rest period at the TDY location before reporting for duty. ***Scheduled flight time is the time between the scheduled aircraft departure from the airport serving the PDS/TDY point and the scheduled aircraft arrival at the airport serving the TDY point/PDS.*** Rest stops must not exceed 24 hours. ***NOTE: A traveler is disqualified from using business class accommodations at GOV'T expense if (a) a 'stopover' en route is an overnight stay, (b) a rest stop en route is authorized/approved, or (c) an overnight rest period occurs at the TDY location before beginning work.***

G. Insurance Coverage in Foreign Areas. The AO may authorize/approve reimbursement for mandatory insurance coverage required in foreign areas for a rental, GOV'T, or POC used for official travel.

H. Allowable Travel Days. The number of allowed travel days is determined by the transportation mode. For commercial air travel, one day is allowed in CONUS and within OCONUS areas. For travel between CONUS and OCONUS via commercial air, the actual elapsed time is used based on the scheduled departure and arrival times. For travel by commercial ground transportation, the scheduled departure and arrival dates are used. The actual time is used for travel by GOV'T/GOV'T procured air transportation based on scheduled departure and arrival dates. When the AO authorizes/approves travel by private, rental or GOV (other than GOV'T/GOV'T procured air), one travel day is allowed for each 400 miles or increment thereof. If travel by POC is used, but not authorized/ approved

by the AO as advantageous, travel time is limited to one day for each leg (for example, from PDS to TDY stop) requiring an overnight stay.

I. Authorized Trips Home during Extended TDY. A traveler on extended TDY (other than deployment), for a continuous period of more than three weeks, may be authorized to periodically return in an official travel status to the PDS, or place of abode from which the traveler commutes daily to the PDS, on weekends or other non-workdays.

J. Voluntary Return Home during Intervening Weekend/Holidays. If the AO does not authorize travel home periodically on weekends or non-workdays, it may still be performed for personal convenience. If so, reimbursement for the roundtrip transportation and en route per diem is authorized, but limited to the amount of per diem the GOV'T would have paid had the traveler remained at the TDY location.

*K. Constructed Cost. Constructed transportation costs are based on the non-capacity controlled city pair airfare (YCA), not the capacity controlled city pair airfare (_CA), if both are available. If a city pair airfare is not available between origin and destination, the constructed transportation cost is limited by the POLICY CONSTRUCTED AIRFARE (see APP A1). **No other costs are added to the computation.** See JFTR, par. U4710-C/JTR, par. C4710-C. City pair (YCA) airfare transportation is presumed available if there is a city pair between the origin and destination points, regardless of whether or not space would actually have been available had the traveler used air transportation for the official travel.

L. Travel to/from Transportation Terminals. For transportation to and from transportation terminals JFTR, pars. U4925, U3310-A, U3320-B, U3315-A, and Ch 3, Part D, NOTE/JTR, pars. C3310-A, C3320-B, C3315-A, C3310, Ch 3, Part D, NOTE, and C4760.

T4040 LIVING EXPENSES (PER DIEM)

The "Lodging Plus" computation method is used to reimburse TDY living expenses. A traveler is paid the actual lodging cost up to a limit, plus a set amount for M&IE. Per diem rates for lodging and M&IE vary by location, but should be sufficient for a comfortable, safe trip. A traveler also can be reimbursed for other necessary allowable travel related reimbursable expenses (APP G) if the AO authorizes/approves them as appropriate to the mission.

A. Lodging Overnight Required - Business Travel Standards

1. Sleeping

- a. The cost estimate for lodging should include tax.
- b. Uniformed Member – A member ordered to a U.S. INSTALLATION (as opposed to a geographic location like a town or city) is required to check the GOV'T QTRS availability (e.g., using Service/Agency procedures) at (**not near**) the U.S. INSTALLATION to which assigned TDY to facilitate the AO's decision about requiring GOV'T QTRS use.
- c. The AO may direct adequate (based on DoD and Service standards) available GOV'T QTRS use for a uniformed member on (**not near**) a U.S. INSTALLATION only if the uniformed member is TDY to that U.S. INSTALLATION. (**DOHA Claims Case No. 2009-CL-080602.2, 7 July 2010**).
- d. GOV'T QTRS availability/non-availability must be documented as indicated in JFTR, par. U2570-A.
- e. A member, as a prudent traveler, should use adequate available GOV'T QTRS on the U.S. INSTALLATION at which assigned TDY; however:
 - (1) when adequate GOV'T QTRS use is directed, and
 - (2) when adequate GOV'T QTRS are available on the U.S. INSTALLATION to which a member is assigned TDY, and

(3) the member uses other lodgings as a personal choice, lodging reimbursement is NTE the GOV'T QTRS cost on the U.S INSTALLATION to which assigned TDY (44 Comp. Gen. 626 (1965)).

2. *Per diem cannot be limited based on the presence of 'nearby' GOV'T QTRS (i.e., not on the U.S. INSTALLATION to which the member is assigned TDY but on another 'nearby' U.S. INSTALLATION or other uniformed facility or elsewhere). The non-availability indicated in JFTR, par. U2570-A is required only for GOV'T QTRS 'on' the U.S. INSTALLATION at which the member is assigned TDY.*

NOTE: *The member is not required to seek (or check for) GOV'T QTRS when TDY to a U.S. INSTALLATION after non-availability documentation has been initially provided. Checking QTRS availability is a onetime requirement at a TDY U.S. INSTALLATION. (Example: A member who is required to check QTRS availability at a U.S. INSTALLATION, does so, and documents non-availability cannot be required to re-check later for QTRS availability at that U.S. INSTALLATION during that TDY period) IAW JFTR, par. U2570-A.*

3. Civilian Employee

a. *An employee may not be ordered/required to use GOV'T QTRS, nor may the lodging reimbursement simply be limited to the GOV'T QTRS cost.*

b. IAW the requirement to exercise prudence when incurring expenses, an employee should check for GOV'T QTRS availability, and is encouraged to use those QTRS when TDY to a U.S. INSTALLATION.

c. The proper authority under par. C4550-C may prescribe a reduced per diem rate based on the GOV'T QTRS cost and other considerations.

d. Reduced per diem rates can be established only before travel begins.

e. The head of a DoD COMPONENT (APP A1) concerned may authorize zero per diem or a per diem rate (<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/perdiem.cfm>) in a lesser amount if the circumstances of the travel or duty to be performed so warrant and are peculiar to that particular DoD COMPONENT. This authority may be delegated to a chief of an appropriate bureau or staff agency of the appropriate DoD COMPONENT's headquarters, and may not be re-delegated.

f. In the absence of a reduced or no per diem authority on the order before travel begins (or as part of an order amendment/modification covering a prospective period after the order was issued), an order, modified after the fact, prescribing a different per diem rate is without effect and the locality per diem rates are used.

g. Reduced per diem rates should incorporate amounts for laundry/dry cleaning/pressing of clothes if the travel is OCONUS or for less than 4 days in CONUS for an employee or less than 7 days in CONUS for a member. **NOTE 1** (applicable to a civilian employee) following par. T4040-A9 for an explanation concerning separate reimbursement for laundry/dry cleaning/pressing of clothing.

4. Commercial Lodging Reimbursement

a. Commercial lodging reimbursement is based on the single occupant rate, up to the TDY site or stopover location maximum.

b. If only lodgings that cost more than the published maximum rate are available, the AO may authorize/approve the higher amount such that the actual lodging cost and the per diem M&IE does not exceed 300% of the published rate (lodging plus M&IE). For example, a member is TDY to a location with a maximum per diem rate of \$122 (\$76/ \$46). The AO could authorize up to \$320 for lodging (300% x \$122 = \$366 - \$46 (for M&IE) = \$320) if AEA for meals is not authorized. These rates must be placed on the Trip Record.

c. Under special or unusual circumstances a uniformed member may require more than 300% for lodging OCONUS. Rates in excess of 300% may be authorized *only in advance* ([47 Comp. Gen. 127 \(1967\)](#)) by PDTATAC, or the Secretary Concerned (for a classified mission), and for *only a uniformed member*. JFTR, par. U4250. The traveler is personally financially responsible for charges beyond the basic room fee and tax. The traveler must retain all lodging receipts.

NOTE 1: Tax paid on lodging in CONUS or in a non-foreign OCONUS area is a reimbursable expense (APP G) in addition to lodging expense except when 'MALT Plus' per diem for POC travel is paid to a uniformed member. The locality per diem [lodging ceiling](#) (<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/perdiemCalc.cfm>) in CONUS and in a non-foreign OCONUS area does not include lodging tax.

NOTE 2: Tax paid on lodging at a foreign area is not separately reimbursable. The locality per diem [lodging ceiling](#) (<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/perdiemCalc.cfm>) in a foreign OCONUS area includes lodging tax.

NOTE 3: The TDY locality per diem rate is used for computation. However, if neither GOV'T QTRS nor commercial lodging is available at the TDY location and lodging must be obtained in an adjacent locality at which the locality rate is higher, the AO may authorize/approve the higher locality per diem rate for the lodging facility location.

5. Lodging with a Friend or Relative

a. Applicable to a Uniformed Service Member. *Reimbursement of lodging cost is not authorized when staying with a friend or relative.* A member, who lodges with a friend or relative, is authorized the TDY location M&IE rate, if otherwise eligible.

b. Applicable to a Civilian Employee. When a traveler lodges with a friend or relative - with or without charge - the traveler may be reimbursed for additional lodging costs the host incurs in accommodating the traveler, if the traveler can substantiate the costs, and the AO determines the costs are reasonable. *The traveler may not be reimbursed the cost of comparable conventional lodging in the area or a flat "token" amount.* GSBCA 16836-RELO, 5 June 2006. A traveler, who lodges with a friend or relative, is authorized the TDY location M&IE rate, if otherwise eligible.

NOTE 1: *If the friend or relative is in the business of renting on a regular basis the lodgings involved – for example, if that individual is operating a hotel or apartment house – the "friends or relatives" provision does not apply.* GSBCA 14398-TRAV, 24 Feb 1998.

NOTE 2: *Shortly after being transferred to a new PDS, an employee was sent TDY to the old PDS where the employee stayed at the former residence which was not yet sold. GSBCA ruled that the employee was not authorized reimbursement for lodging at the former residence.* GSBCA 15600-TRAV, 7 March 2002.

NOTE 3: *A traveler assigned at Avon Park Air Force Range (AFR), Florida lives in the Avon Park area during the week at a location approximately fifteen miles from the PDS and commutes to and from the family residence near Orlando, Florida, approximately 100 miles from the AFR, on weekends. The traveler had to attend a meeting near Orlando at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, 23 February. The meeting location was approximately twelve miles from the family residence. The meeting lasted until Friday, 25 February. The traveler began TDY travel to the Orlando area on the evening of Tuesday, 22 February. GSBCA ruled that the traveler should be authorized travel expenses both to and from the TDY location and M&IE even though the traveler lodged at the family residence in the TDY area. GSBCA also indicated that for the first and last days of the TDY, 22 and 25 February (unless the traveler was authorized to return on the 26th) the traveler is authorized 75% of the applicable M&IE rate for each day. M&IE for the days between the first and last days is authorized at the full rate.* GSBCA 16652-TRAV, 26 August 2005.

6. If the traveler is on TDY at one location for more than 30 days, lodging reservations should be made on a weekly, monthly, or other long term basis, if possible. When longer term lodging is used, the allowable lodging

cost includes the rent; charges for furniture rental (as long as an option to buy is not exercised); utilities connections, use and disconnection fees; cleaning fees; telephone monthly use fees, but not toll charges; and other services ordinarily provided by a hotel. Follow Service/Agency procedures for making lodging arrangements.

a. If a recreational vehicle (RV) is used for lodging, additional fees that are part of the lodging cost are the charge for the RV parking space, dumping and shower fees, special user fees (for example, cable TV charges) if normally included in the price of hotel rooms in the area, and plug-in fees. Expenses that do not accrue on a daily basis (such as dumping fees) may be averaged over the number of days the traveler is authorized per diem.

b. Allowable Expenses When a Residence is Purchased and Used for TDY Lodging:

Civilian Federal Employees – IAW FTR §301-11.12(b) dated 14 October 2011, reimbursement for any lodging expense under this paragraph is not allowed. Also see JTR, pars. C4555-D and C4555-E.

Uniformed Service Members – reimbursement for mortgage interest and property taxes under this paragraph is not allowed under orders issued on/after 1 January 2012. ***Effective 10 January 2012 utilities on a dwelling purchased on/after 1 January 201 (including a recreational vehicle) may not be reimbursed.*** For Uniformed Service Members under orders that were issued before 1 January 2012 who purchased a dwelling before 1 January 2012, reimbursement may be claimed until the order expires to include all extensions to the existing order, limited to the following conditions:

Allowable expenses are the monthly:

- (1) Mortgage interest;
- (2) Property tax; and
- (3) Utility costs actually incurred (does not include any installation and hook-up charges), e.g., electricity, natural gas, water, fuel oil, sewer charges, not to include entertainment utilities (e.g., cable, TV, telephone).

prorated based on the number of days in the month rather than by the actual number of days the traveler occupied the residence. ([57 Comp. Gen. 147 \(1977\)](#)). ***In no case may the total lodging per diem payable exceed the applicable maximum locality per diem rate for the area unless an AEA (JFTR, Ch 4, Part C) is authorized/approved. JFTR, par. U4141 does not apply when the residence is purchased.***

NOTE: *A traveler who purchases or rents and occupies a residence at the TDY location may not be reimbursed for the cost of: 1. shipment of furniture from previous residence, or 2. purchase of furniture needed for unfurnished temporary duty lodgings, even if shipment/purchase was less expensive than rental would have been. [GSBCA 16699-TRAV, 17 August 2005.](#)*

7. If the traveler incurs an exchange fee to trade an owned timeshare period for a comparable period at lodgings at the TDY point, the exchange fee (but not the annual maintenance fee) is reimbursed as a lodging cost (**B-254626, 17 February 1994**).

8. **On-Line Booking Tool.** Although savings may be realized through online booking agents, the traveler should follow Service/Agency procedures for making lodging reservations, or (if permitted by Service/Agency procedures) reserve a room directly with the hotel/chain. ***Lodging reimbursement is authorized for hotel lodging obtained through an online booking agent only when the traveler can provide a documented itemized receipt for room cost from the hotel or online booking agent showing the following charges (CBCA 2431-TRAV, 13 September 2011):***

a. Daily hotel room costs;

- b. Daily hotel taxes; and
- c. Daily miscellaneous fees, if applicable.

9. Eating

a. The M&IE for the departure day is 75% of the M&IE rate for the traveler's stopover point or TDY location, as appropriate, that night. If the traveler is traveling and lodging is not used, the M&IE rate is based on the next stopover point or TDY location. The M&IE for the return day to the PDS is 75% of the M&IE rate for the preceding day (last TDY location or stopover point), as appropriate. Any TDY en route locations, on the day travel ends, do not affect the M&IE rate for that return day unless overnight lodgings are required.

<u>Example</u>	
1 Sep	Depart PDS
1 Sep	Arrive TDY A (\$50 M&IE)
10 Sep	Depart TDY A
10 Sep	Arrive TDY B (\$60 M&IE)
10 Sep	Depart TDY B
10 Sep	Arrive PDS
Pay 75% of \$50 (TDY A M&IE for preceding day) on 10 Sep	

b. On other days, the meals and incidentals allowance is the full M&IE for the TDY location or stopover point where lodgings are required unless for Uniformed Service members, the AO specifies one of two other meal rates based on GOV'T dining facility/mess availability. The two rates are either the GMR when all meals on a given day are available or the PMR when at least one meal a day is available. (IE are added to the GMR or PMR.) A GOV'T dining facility/mess is available only if: GOV'T QTRS on a U.S. INSTALLATION are available and the command controlling the dining facility/mess has made the dining facility/mess available to the traveler. A GOV'T dining facility/mess is not available on interim travel days. When actual dining facility/mess availability differs from the pre-trip information, the AO may authorize/approve a higher rate (e.g., from PMR plus IE to the locality M&IE rate). ***The meal rate established cannot be reduced after the fact except for a free meal as described in par. T4040-A9c below.***

NOTE: In circumstances in which adequate GOV'T QTRS are available but a member is directed to procure private sector lodgings off the U.S. INSTALLATION, the member is treated as though the GOV'T QTRS are not available and authorized the locality meal rate instead of the GMR/PMR and \$5 (in CONUS) or the locality IE rate OCONUS (unless the \$3.50 IE rate is authorized for incidental expenses under par. T4040-A9). Just because the QTRS are available, a command cannot send a member into private sector lodgings off the U.S. INSTALLATION and use the technical QTRS 'availability' to reduce the locality meal rate to GMR/PMR.

c. When the GOV'T purchases at least one or two meals on a calendar day through some means such as a registration fee, the PMR plus IE applies for that day. This does not apply on travel days to and from the PDS. The GOV'T should not pay for the same meal twice (originally by registration fee, etc., and again through per diem). A meal that is provided to the traveler for which the GOV'T pays nothing does not affect per diem. A meal served on a common carrier is not "purchased by the GOV'T." The traveler must indicate on the Trip Record how many meals were purchased by the GOV'T and for which dates.

NOTE 1: If all three meals are provided, only the IE for that day is payable.

NOTE 2: 'Light refreshments' (including a continental breakfast) are a deductible meal if otherwise qualified above and served at a meal time (e.g., breakfast - 0600-0800). Light refreshments served during a break (not at a meal time) are not a deductible meal.

d. A meal provided by a friend/relative or a common carrier does not affect per diem. A complimentary meal provided by a lodging establishment does not affect per diem as long as the room charge is the same with/without meals. JFTR, par. U4165, items 2e and 2f (uniformed member)/JTR, pars. C4554-B5 and C4554-B6 (civilian employee) when a charge for meals is added to the lodging cost. Also JFTR, pars. U4165 and U4167/JTR, par. C4554-B.

e. In very rare instances, the M&IE rate may not be sufficient and the AO may authorize AEA for M&IE (in addition to AEA for lodging) up to 300% of the locality M&IE rate. The reimbursement limit is the lesser of the actual expenses incurred or the AEA M&IE maximum amount. The maximum reimbursement for IE is \$5 in CONUS and either the locality IE rate or \$3.50 OCONUS for all full stationary (non-travel) TDY days when the AO determines \$3.50 IE is adequate. If AEA is authorized/approved it applies to the entire time at that location and all travel days if no other TDY location is involved.

10. Incidental Expenses (IE). The traveler is paid an IE allowance, for such things as the cost of tips and laundry (in some instances), incurred while traveling. This is the IE part of the M&IE. The daily IE in CONUS is \$5. The OCONUS daily IE is the rate for the applicable per diem locality, or \$3.50 when the AO determines \$3.50 to be adequate for anticipated IE. ***The \$3.50 IE rate does not apply on any day the traveler is traveling.***

NOTE 1: Applicable to a civilian employee:

a. The cost incurred during TDY/PCS travel (not after arriving at or returning to the PDS) for personal laundry, dry cleaning, and pressing of clothing is a separately reimbursable travel expense in addition to per diem/AEA when travel is within CONUS and requires at least 4 consecutive nights TDY/PCS lodging in CONUS.

b. The cost for laundry, dry cleaning, and/or pressing of clothing is not a separately reimbursable travel expense for travel OCONUS and is included as an incidental expense within the per diem authorized for OCONUS travel.

NOTE 2: Applicable to a uniformed member:

a. The cost incurred during TDY travel (not after returning to the PDS) for personal laundry/dry cleaning and pressing of clothing, up to an average of \$2/day, is a separately reimbursable travel expense in addition to per diem/AEA when travel within CONUS requires at least 7 consecutive nights TDY lodging in CONUS.

b. The cost incurred during TDY travel for personal laundry/dry cleaning and pressing of clothing is not a separately reimbursable expense for OCONUS travel and is part of the IE allowance included within the per diem rates authorized for OCONUS travel.

B. Lodging Overnight Required - Schoolhouse Training Standards

1. Schoolhouse training standards are the same as for business travel. However, for training, the training location commander, not the AO, decides if GOV'T QTRS use by a uniformed member is directed and if one of the two M&IE rates based on GOV'T dining facility/mess availability is appropriate. ***GOV'T QTRS use may not be directed for a civilian employee. See par. T4040-A3.***

2. In some situations, the Secretary Concerned may authorize EUM for students in particular courses when readiness requires GOV'T dining facility/mess use. When EUM applies, a member receives the IE amount, a civilian employee receives the IE amount and reimbursement for the amount paid for food. The prohibition on the meal portion of per diem begins at 0001 on the first full EUM day and ends at 2400 on the last full EUM day. The AO may authorize/approve the actual amount paid NTE the PMR for commercial meals the traveler is required to purchase.

3. The Trip Record must indicate dining facility/mess availability. If that information is not available prior to the trip, the information must be provided to the traveler upon arrival at the school and the trip report changed.

When actual dining facility/mess availability differs from the pre-trip information, the AO may approve on a daily basis the PMR (1 or 2 meals) plus IE or the locality M&IE rate (all 3 meals) depending on how many meals were available. The traveler must note on the Trip Record how many meals by date were not available.

C. Lodging Overnight Required - Standards for Deployment, Personnel Traveling Together with No/Limited Reimbursement, and TDY aboard Ships. Other reimbursable expenses (par. T4040-F and APP. G) are authorized in the same manner as for business travel. The AO may authorize/approve the actual amount paid up to the PMR (but no IE) for meals and/or payment for lodging when the traveler is not authorized per diem but is required to purchase these items. See par. T4040-A13 if the lodging cost exceeds the published maximum rate.

1. The phrase 'Personnel traveling together' refers to travel away from the PDS during which the mission requires control of the group of travelers. Ordinary business travel reimbursements apply unless the travelers' order directs no/limited reimbursement, in which case all transportation, food, lodging, and other items ordinarily reimbursed, should be provided to the travelers. ***No per diem is payable when no/limited reimbursement is directed in the order for personnel traveling together.*** The restriction on paying per diem only includes travel days between duty locations and does not involve allowances for full days at duty locations. The per diem prohibition begins when the member departs the PDS and ends at 2400 of the day the member arrives at the TDY location. The prohibition begins again at 0001 of the departure day from the TDY location until arrival at the PDS. The typical member pays the food cost without operating expense, and a civilian employee pays the food cost and operating expense. A civilian employee is authorized reimbursement of the amount paid for food. ***Directing several personnel to travel together with no/limited reimbursement must never be done simply to save travel funds.***

2. Training exercises, maneuvers, war games, and similar types of operations may be classified as field duty when everything ordinarily associated with per diem is furnished without charge. ***Per diem is not payable during field duty.*** The prohibition on per diem begins at 0001 on the first full day of field duty and ends at 2400 on the last full day of field duty. Lodging is provided and the typical member pays some amount for food; a civilian employee also pays for food. A civilian employee is authorized reimbursement of the amount paid for food. When the Secretary Concerned, or COCOM Commander or JTF commander for a joint deployment, determines that GOV'T dining facility/mess use is essential to accomplish training and readiness, EUM applies. The meals portion of the M&IE is not payable to a member. A civilian employee is authorized reimbursement of the amount paid for food. Each EUM traveler is authorized the IE amount. See par. T4020-B2.

3. Joint deployments involve the temporary assignment of travelers of more than one uniformed service to a provisional force formed for a specific task or operation. TDY options include regular business travel, EUM, or field duty. The COCOM or JTF Commander determines the appropriate option and may specify different options for different locations. For example, field duty might be appropriate for the deployed force main body, but business travel might be appropriate for an interim staging base. In choosing the option to use, the COCOM or JTF Commander should consider, in the following priority: business travel, EUM, field duty. Under normal circumstances, the COCOM Commander should choose business travel unless operational circumstances dictate otherwise. In general, business travel is appropriate for peacekeeping, humanitarian, and relief missions. The COCOM or JTF Commander may authorize EUM when it enhances operational readiness, the conduct of military operations, or is necessary to conduct training. It applies to units only, not to an individual traveler. Table 1 shows the effect of each option on per diem. ***Exception: A traveler receiving the GMR rate while TDY to a JTF Commander's area of responsibility (AOR), who travels within that AOR, is not traveling for M&IE purposes for par. T4040-A8b (e.g., If a TDY traveler travels from one location in AOR to another location in the AOR, and the GMR rate applies to both locations, then the GMR applies for that day unless GOV'T meals are not available). The COCOM or JTF Commander must communicate the TDY option decision (including the appropriate meal rate) to the appropriate Services for inclusion in orders.***

4. TDY aboard Ships

a. No per diem is payable when TDY aboard a U.S. ship since GOV'T QTRS and dining facility/mess are provided. A civilian employee is reimbursed for the amount paid for food. The prohibition on per diem begins at 0001 on the day after the arrival day on board and ends at 2400 on the day before the departure day from the ship. ***There is no per diem paid for the first and/or last travel day by GOV'T ship when it***

departs from the port at the traveler's PDS and/or returns to the port at the PDS.

b. The AO may authorize payment of a per diem when the traveler is TDY aboard a foreign or commercial ship and incurs an expense for other than GOV'T meals. The AO may establish a per diem allowance equal to the daily expenses.

c. *Civilian Employee Only.* In the event an employee maintains commercial lodgings ashore for use following the completion of short trips at sea, the employee is paid the actual daily lodgings cost, NTE the locality per diem lodging ceiling for the TDY location ashore. **Reimbursement for the total cost of QTRS on the ship and lodgings ashore may not exceed the maximum lodging amount prescribed in the TDY locality per diem rates at <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/perdiemCalc.cfm>.** When an employee is authorized to procure meals ashore at personal expense, reimbursement is authorized as prescribed in par. T4040-A8. In any event, the total per diem allowance may not exceed the applicable maximum rate prescribed in the TDY locality per diem rates at.

5. Contingency Operation Flat Rate Per Diem (uniformed member only). See par. U4105-I.

6. Joint Task Force Operations TDY Options

TABLE 1 DEPLOYMENT - JOINT OPERATIONS TDY OPTIONS			
TDY OPTION	SUBSISTENCE	PER DIEM	REMARKS
<u>Subsist Ashore</u>			
Business Travel	Commercial Lodging and Commercial Meals	Lodging and M&IE	Member/Civilian Employee Pays for Lodging and Meals
	GOV'T Lodging and GOV'T Dining Facility/ Mess – Permanent U.S. INSTALLATION	Lodging and M&IE	Member/Civilian Employee Pays for Lodging and Full Meal Rate 1/ for GOV'T Meals
	GOV'T Lodging and GOV'T Dining Facility/Mess – Temporary U.S. INSTALLATION or Temporary Dining Facilities Established for JTF Operation	Lodging and M&IE	Member/Civilian Employee Pays for Lodging and for GOV'T Meals at Discount Meal Rate 2/
	GOV'T Lodging and Commercial Meals	Lodging and M&IE	Member/Civilian Employee Pays for Lodging and Meals
	Commercial Lodging and GOV'T Dining Facility/Mess (In AOR only)	Lodging and M&IE	Member/Civilian Employee Pays for Lodging and Full Meal Rate for GOV'T Meals
EUM	GOV'T Lodging and Use of GOV'T Dining Facility/Mess is Essential for Training and Readiness Purposes	IE	Civilian Employee Pays for GOV'T Meals at Full Meal Rate
Field Duty	GOV'T Lodging, Dining Facility/Mess and Incidentals Provided	None	Civilian Employee pays for GOV'T Meals at Full Meal Rate
<u>Subsist Aboard U.S. GOV'T Ship 3/</u>			
TDY	GOV'T Lodging and GOV'T Meals	None	Civilian Employee Pays for Meals

NOTES:

1/ Full Meal Rate = Food costs plus operating expenses.

2/ Discount Meal Rate = Food costs only.

3/ A member/civilian employee deployed who is ordered to subsist ashore – “Subsist Ashore” (above table) for order type and payment guidelines.

NOTE: For BAS DoDFMR, Volume 7A, Ch 25 or Coast Guard, COMDTINST M7220.29 (series), Ch 3.

D. Lodging Overnight Not Required

1. Transportation

- a. It is mandatory that a traveler arrange transportation through an available CTO, even though overnight lodging is not required.
 - b. If travel is in the local area (JFTR, par. U2800/JTR, par. C2800) around the PDS, a GOV, public transportation paid for by the command, or a POC may be used.
 - c. JFTR, par. U4925/JTR, par. C4760 for travel to/from a transportation terminal.
 - d. If a POC is used to/from home, the traveler is authorized the standard mileage rate for the distance driven, minus the normal distance driven to and from work. This most often affects the PDS.
 - e. If the traveler does not travel by POC to work every day, the traveler is reimbursed the standard mileage rate for the distance driven, less the traveler's normal transportation cost to get to work.
 - f. The AO determines reimbursement based on the difference between the cost of using the POC and the traveler's normal cost to get to work.
 - g. Commercial transportation expense reimbursement is authorized/approved **only** if the expenses incurred for travel to the alternate work site exceed the expenses ordinarily incurred by the traveler to commute to the PDS workplace.
 - h. A traveler is authorized reimbursement for other expenses such as tolls and parking when using a POC.
 - i. For distance determination JFTR, par. U2650-A/JTR, par. C2650-A (DTOD requirements).
2. Meals. With two limited exceptions (par. T4060-B14), a traveler may not be paid for meals within the traveler's PDS boundaries. For travel outside the PDS limits, when the TDY is more than 12 hours, reimbursement is 75% of the M&IE rate for the TDY location (using the highest rate if there is more than one TDY location) for each travel day. **No per diem is authorized when TDY is for 12 or fewer hours.** However, the AO may authorize/approve reimbursement of the actual amount paid, NTE the PMR (not including IE) for the TDY location, when a uniformed member spends more than the cost of normal meal arrangements during travel outside the PDS limits. **JFTR, par. U4510 for occasional meals authority.**

NOTE: Mission related or personal expenses are not reimbursable. These include batteries, tools, film, gifts for childcare, house care, pet care, hotel concierge, or workout room/gym fees, and similar expenses.

E. Reimbursable Expenses. See APP G.

F. Reimbursement for Travel Expenses at the TDY Location

1. Reimbursement is authorized for necessary travel expenses at the TDY location. For specific expenses par. T4030.
2. GOV /special conveyance use is limited to official purposes such as transportation to and from (65 Comp. Gen. 253 (1986)):
 - a. Duty sites,
 - b. Lodgings,
 - c. Dining facilities,

- d. Drugstores,
 - e. Barber shops,
 - f. Places of worship,
 - g. Cleaning establishments, and
 - h. Similar places required for the traveler's subsistence, health or comfort.
3. If a GOV/special conveyance is not authorized, the traveler is authorized reimbursement for necessary public transportation costs.
 4. If POC use is authorized/approved, reimbursement is the automobile TDY mileage rate times the miles driven for the necessary travel around the TDY location.
 5. The traveler must note the required miles driven.

T4045 TRAVEL ALLOWANCES FOR AN RC MEMBER (48 Comp. Gen. 301 (1968))

A. General. Par. T4045 applies to an RC member on active/inactive duty under an order that provides for return home. See JFTR, par. U7150 for travel of a cadet and midshipman travel, an applicant and Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (SROTC) member, RC member travel for medical and dental care, a Ready RC member on muster duty, a retiree called to active duty, active duty for training tours of 140 or more days at one location (except as noted in JFTR, par. U2240), and active duty for other than training for more than 180 days at one location (except as noted in par. T4045-E4).

B. Inactive Duty Training. An RC member commits to an obligation to participate in a finite number of scheduled training periods (inactive duty training (IDT) unit drills) annually. Each Service has a different term for these training periods, such as unit training assemblies, or weekend drills. Inherent in this obligation is the travel between the member's home and the location at which the member normally performs "drill" (e.g., the armory, reserve center, assembly location, etc.). The member receives no reimbursement for that travel except as provided in par. T4045-G. For par. T4045-B, the *Assigned Unit* is an RC member's designated post of duty and the *TDY Station* is an alternate site outside the local commuting area (see JFTR, par. U2800) of the member's assigned unit or home.

1. Travel from Home to Assigned Unit or Alternate Site in Local Commuting Area. There is no authority for travel and transportation allowances. In some cases of a Ready Reserve Select Reserve member, travel expense reimbursement may be authorized/approved under par. T4045-G. The member may be authorized/ approved reimbursement under par. T4040-F for transportation expenses in and around the unit/site. When the member travels between home and an alternate site, the member is paid mileage for the distance that exceeds the distance from home to the assigned unit.

2. Travel from Home/Assigned Unit or Other Location to TDY Station. The member is authorized allowances in pars. T4030 and T4040, limited to travel cost from the assigned unit.

3. Travel from a Location Other than Home/Assigned Unit to an Alternate Site within the Local Commuting Area. There is no authority for travel and transportation allowances; however, the member is paid TDY mileage for the distance traveled limited to the distance from the assigned unit to the alternate site less the distance from home to assigned unit.

C. Travel for AT. For AT travel, a member is authorized payment for 1 round trip between home and the AT site under par. T4030. If the AT is performed in two or more separate tours, the AO may authorize roundtrip transportation for each tour. Per diem is payable under par. T4040-A for travel days to and from the AT location, unless the member commutes daily or the AO determines the member can commute.

D. Per Diem Not Payable. No per diem is payable to:

1. An RC member at an AT site when both GOV'T QTRS and GOV'T dining facility/mess are available; however, the member is authorized reimbursement for the GOV'T QTRS cost. If GOV'T QTRS and/or GOV'T dining facility/mess are not available, per diem is payable under par. T4040-A;
2. An RC member on active duty without pay;
3. A newly enlisted member undergoing training when both GOV'T QTRS and dining facility/mess are available;
4. A Public Health Service officer called to active duty for COSTEP;
5. An RC member who commutes daily, or the AO determines can commute, except for authority under par. T4040-C if required to remain at the place of duty overnight outside the home's city limits;
6. An RC member on inactive duty training except when duty is performed at a location other than the assigned unit (designated post of duty includes training duty station, drill site and city where located) or local area (see JFTR, par. U2800) of the assigned unit or home. If required to occupy transient GOV'T housing, reimbursement for actual lodging cost is authorized;
7. A Standby RC member voluntarily performing without pay.

E. Per Diem. When an RC member is ordered to:

1. Schoolhouse training, par. T4030 applies for transportation and par. T4040-B for per diem;
2. Deploy, to be one of personnel traveling together under an order directing no/limited reimbursement, on unit travel, field duty, or at sea training, par. T4030 applies for transportation, and par. T4040-C applies for per diem for periods under 20 weeks. ;
3. ADT (other than schoolhouse) for fewer than 140 days or active duty for other than training for 180 or fewer days, transportation is determined under par. T4030, and per diem under business travel rules in par. T4040-A;
4. Active duty for other than training for more than 180 days because of unusual or emergency circumstances or exigencies of the Service and the Secretarial Process authorizes per diem, transportation is determined under par. T4030, and per diem under the business rules in par. T4040-A (or deployment rules in par. T4040-C).

F. Funeral Honors Duty. An RC member who performs funeral honors in a funeral honors duty status (under 10 USC §12503 or 32 USC §115) at a location 50 or more miles from the member's residence is authorized travel and transportation allowances as for business travel under pars. T4030 and T4040-A and T4040-D.

G. Inactive Duty Training outside Normal Commuting Distance. The Secretary Concerned may authorize reimbursement to an eligible Ready Reserve Select Reserve member for travel and transportation related expenses for travel to an inactive duty training location (assigned unit – designated post of duty) to perform inactive duty training when the member is required to commute outside the local commuting distance. For par. T4045-G, 'outside the local commuting distance' is defined as the local travel area as prescribed under JFTR, par. U2800, but not less than 150 miles one way by DTOD. An exception to this exists for non-contiguous States and U.S. Territories and Possessions requiring off island/inter island travel to an IDT location that is not normally served by boat/ferry and does not meet the conditions under par. U2800-B1c. Reimbursement for travel costs via air/sea is limited IAW par. T4045-G2.

1. Eligible Member. A Ready Reserve Select Reserve member (*and not just any* RC member) must be:
 - a. Qualified in a skill designated as critically short by the Service Secretary;

- b. Assigned to a Selected Reserve unit with a critical staffing shortage or in a pay grade in the member’s RC with a critical staffing shortage; or
- c. Assigned to a unit or position that is disestablished or relocated as a result of Defense BRAC or another force structure reallocation.

2. **Reimbursement.** The following travel and transportation expenses for travel to and from an inactive duty training location to perform inactive duty training may be reimbursed, *NTE a total of \$300 for each round trip (37 USC §478a(c)).*

a. **Transportation.** When commercial transportation is used, reimbursement is authorized for the actual cost of the transportation used to include transportation between home and the transportation terminal and between the transportation terminal and the training location. When POC is used, the Other Mileage Rate (see JFTR, par. U2600) is used for the official distance to and from the IDT location, to which is added reimbursement for highway, bridge, and tunnel tolls; and parking fees.

b. **Lodging and Meals.** The actual cost of the member’s lodging (including tax (*NOTE*), tips, and service charges) and actual cost of meals (including tax and tips, but not including alcoholic beverages) may be reimbursed NTE the locality **per diem rate** (<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/perdiemCalc.cfm>).

NOTE 1: *Tax paid on lodging in CONUS or in a non-foreign OCONUS area is a reimbursable expense (APP G) in addition to lodging reimbursement. The locality per diem **lodging ceiling** (<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/perdiemCalc.cfm>) in CONUS and in a non-foreign OCONUS area does not include lodging tax.*

NOTE 2: *Tax paid on lodging at a foreign area is not separately reimbursable. It is part of the per diem rate(s) used to compute the safe haven evacuation allowances. The locality per diem **lodging ceiling** (<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/perdiemCalc.cfm>) in a foreign OCONUS area includes lodging tax.*

H. Summary of Allowances for An RC Member

1. Table 1 - Active Duty with Pay

ACTIVE DUTY WITH PAY 1/		
Situation 2/	Transportation 3/4/	Per Diem
Annual Training (AT) 5/	Par. T4030 applies.	Not authorized if GOV'T QTRS & dining facility/mess available; otherwise par. T4040 applies. 6/7/
PHS officers called to active duty for Commissioned Officer Student and Extern Program (COSTEP).	Par. T4030 applies.	Not authorized. 6/7/
Pipeline Student--newly enlisted member undergoing training.	Normally performed as personnel traveling together with no/limited reimbursement (par. T4040-C). If not, may be authorized reimbursement under par. T4030.	Not authorized if GOV'T QTRS & dining facility/mess available.
Member commutes or AO determines member can commute.	See par. T4030-E applies for one roundtrip only provided the place of active duty is outside home’s town/city limits.	Not authorized - payment may be authorized under par. T4040-C if required to remain overnight at place of duty outside home’s town/city limits.
ADT for fewer than 140 days or active duty for other than training for 180 or fewer days at one location.	Par. T4030 applies.	Par. T4040 applies.
Active duty for other than training, required by unusual or emergency circumstances or Service exigencies, for more than 180 days.	Par. T4030 applies if the Secretarial Process authorizes per diem; otherwise Ch 5 applies.	Par. T4040 applies if the Secretarial Process authorizes per diem; otherwise Ch 5 applies.

2. Table 2 - Active Duty without Pay

ACTIVE DUTY WITHOUT PAY		
Situation 2/	Transportation 3/4/	Per Diem
Others performing duty without pay.	Service discretion to reimburse under par. T4040-C (as for personnel traveling together with no/limited reimbursement) and/or par. T4030-E (reimbursement on mileage basis) none for an RC Standby Reserve member.	Not authorized except occasional meals and/or QTRS may be authorized/ approved (par. T4040-C) for travel days only 8/.

NOTES
(Tables 1 and 2)

1/ Applies to an RC member called/ordered to active duty with pay under an order that provides for return to home or place from which called/ordered to active duty. Includes a retired member called to active duty with or without pay (except for periodic physicals for a member on the TDRL, JFTR, par. U7250).

2/ Except as noted in JFTR, par. U2240.

3/ No travel and transportation allowances are authorized if place of duty and home are in the corporate limits of the same city or town.

4/ An RC member may not be paid for commuting from home to duty - only one roundtrip may be paid per active duty period.

5/ Since a training location is the PDS, no per diem is payable when GOV'T QTRS and dining facility/mess are available. Per diem is payable when TDY away from the training location or for traveling to and from the AT location if not in a commuting status.

6/ Temporary lodging facilities are not GOV'T QTRS for purposes of this table.

7/ An RC member on ADT not otherwise authorized per diem who occupies transient GOV'T housing may be reimbursed the actual cost incurred for service charges/lodging.

8/ An RC member on ADT not otherwise authorized per diem who occupies transient GOV'T QTRS may be reimbursed the actual cost incurred for service charges/lodging.

3. Table 3 - Inactive Duty Training with or without Pay

INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING WITH OR WITHOUT PAY 1/2/3/		
Situation	Transportation	Per Diem
Travel from home to Assigned Unit or alternate site in local commuting area of the member's assigned unit or home. 4/	May be authorized reimbursement under par. T4040-F. When the member travels between home and an alternate site, the member is paid mileage for the distance that exceeds the distance from home to the assigned unit.	Not authorized.
Travel from home/assigned unit to TDY Station.	Par. T4030 applies limited to travel cost from the assigned unit.	Par. T4040 applies.
Travel from a location other than home/assigned unit to TDY Station.	Par. T4030 applies limited to travel cost from the assigned unit.	Par. T4040 applies.
Travel from a location other than home/assigned unit to alternate site within the local commuting area.	The member is paid mileage for the distance limited to the distance from the assigned unit to the alternate site less the distance from home to assigned unit.	Not authorized.
RC Standby Reserve member voluntarily performing without pay.	Not authorized.	Not authorized.
<i>This Table is for informational purposes only. Allowances are prescribed in par. T4045.</i>		

NOTES: (Table 3)

- 1/ For travel and transportation allowance purposes, the assigned unit is the designated post of duty.
- 2/ TDY station is alternate site outside the local commuting area (JFTR, par. U2800) of the member's assigned unit or home for par. T4045.
- 3/ An RC member on inactive duty for training who is not otherwise authorized per diem and who occupies transient GOV'T housing may be reimbursed the actual cost incurred for service charges/lodging.
- 4/ See par. T4045-G for limited authority for a Ready Reserve Select Reserve member to be reimbursed travel and transportation expenses when the assigned unit is outside the member's normal commuting distance.

T4050 TAKING A TYPICAL BUSINESS TRIP**A. Before the Trip**

1. **Cost Estimate.** A traveler should obtain an estimate for the trip. It lets the traveler and the AO know up-front the standard and actual arrangements, associated costs, and the allowance maximums. It includes transportation costs to and from the TDY location, lodging costs (including tax), and (if one is authorized) fees determined by the DTS Reservation Module or directly from the CTO. The estimate also must reflect the per diem rate broken out by M&IE and lodging and should also include any known planned miscellaneous expenses. A traveler may ask the CTO to estimate the amount for using other commercial transportation.
2. **Tailoring the Trip.** The AO decides if the traveler should use non-standard arrangements for mission reasons. The AO may authorize/approve certain changes for the traveler's convenience (for example, using a car instead of flying). However, the standard arrangement's estimate (as the AO approves for mission reasons) is the reimbursement baseline.
3. **Authority for Travel.** The AO authorizes the TDY, the arrangements, determines the fund cite, and obligates funds to pay for the trip, to include the payment of a travel advance or scheduled partial payment, if included. The resulting document is the Trip Record.
4. **Travel Packet.** The CTO updates the Trip Record with the confirmed reservations and commercial tickets. The TO provides the documents needed for GOV'T transportation if the CTO does not provide this service.
5. **Paying for Arranged Services and Obtaining Cash to Pay for Expenses while Traveling.** The CTO typically uses the traveler's individual (IBA) or unit GTCC to charge or hold reservations. Airline and/or rail tickets in some cases may also be charged to a CBA. While on the trip, the traveler should charge expenses incident to official travel on the IBA or unit GTCC, whenever possible. For official travel related expenses that cannot be charged, the traveler can avoid using personal funds by using the IBA to obtain cash advances or travelers checks. An advance is not an option on a unit travel card.

B. During the Trip

1. **Changing Plans.** If travel plans change from the itinerary, the traveler should call the CTO toll free number, if possible, to modify the itinerary. The CTO must update the traveler's Trip Record. Although the AO may approve the changes after the trip is complete, it is best if the traveler obtains the AO's authority in advance, and updates the Trip Record. The traveler is reimbursed only for changes the AO approves on the Trip Record.
2. **Receipts.** The traveler must be able to produce each lodging receipt and each receipt for any individual official travel expense of \$75 or more. See par. T4040-A8 for a ***'hotel' receipt from an online booking agent.***

C. After the Traveler Returns

1. **Completing the Expense Report.** A traveler should complete and submit the Trip Report expense report portion within 5 working days after returning from the trip. The receipts (lodging, and individual expenses of

\$75 or more) must be attached to the expense report.

2. AO Approval. The AO must approve the expenses on the Trip Record before the traveler is reimbursed. This includes reviewing the required receipts.

3. Submitting the Expense Report. If using the DTS, the expense report is automatically routed to a disbursing office for payment. The amount paid is the amount the AO approves.

4. Random Audits. Random audits of travel expense reports are conducted. The traveler or AO may be required to provide additional information to the audit team.

5. Lost/Stolen/Unused Paper Tickets. JFTR, par. U2715-A/JTR, par. C2715-A. The traveler:

a. *Must safeguard issued paper tickets, carefully at all times;*

b. Must immediately report a lost/stolen paper ticket to the issuing CTO;

c. Is financially responsible to purchase a replacement ticket, when paper ticket is lost/stolen;

d. Must not be reimbursed for the purchase of a replacement ticket until the GOV'T has received a refund for the lost/stolen paper ticket;

e. Is authorized reimbursement initially only for the first ticket purchased (if the traveler paid for both tickets). If the first lost/stolen ticket is recovered, turned in for a refund, and the GOV'T is repaid, reimbursement may then be made for the second ticket, NTE the cost of the first ticket; and

f. Must return unused paper tickets to the CTO. Unused electronic tickets must immediately be reported to the CTO for a refund. *NOTE: SF 1170, Redemption of Unused Tickets, found at <http://www.gsa.gov>, is usable, if authorized in Service issuances, ICW turning in unused tickets.*

T4060 AO RESPONSIBILITIES

A. General. The AO has broad authority to determine when TDY travel is necessary to accomplish the unit's mission, authorize travel, obligate unit travel funds, approve trip arrangements, and authorize travel expenses incurred ICW that mission and IAW the JFTR/JTR. For a civilian traveler, the AO must determine the travel purpose (JFTR/JTR, APP H) for notation on the Trip Record. The information provided by the DTS Reservation Module or directly from the CTO is central in helping to execute those responsibilities.

1. Use the cost estimate on the Trip Record to determine if the travel budget can support the travel. If the standard arrangements made ICW travel policies using GOV'T negotiated airline, lodging and rental car rates do not meet mission needs, the AO may authorize other travel options requested by the traveler, provided they conform to law, regulation, policy and contractual obligations. The AO authorizes the cost estimate.

2. Obtain information on policies relating to transportation and travel arrangements from the CTO and TO, command channels or Service headquarters to assist in future travel decisions.

3. Assure the traveler has access to a GTCC (the unit's or a CBA) if the traveler does not have a GTCC IBA. Refer inquiries about card usage to the local GTCC program coordinator or the TO.

4. Adhere to policies and procedures, use good judgment in obligating unit funds, and ensure the traveler receives adequate reimbursement IAW the JFTR/JTR.

B. What's Allowable and Not Allowable

1. Transportation

a. What an AO may direct. Other than a private or rental vehicle, an AO may direct the traveler to use a particular transportation mode, when it is essential to mission success.

b. Options on city pair flight use. APP P. *Regulations applicable to the Contract city pair Program are found in DTR 4500.9-R, Part I, Ch 103, pars. A2 and B2 (http://www.transcom.mil/j5/pt/dtrpart1/dtr_part_i_103.pdf).*

2. Authorizing Business class Transportation Accommodations. Only the officials listed in JFTR, pars. U3510-A and U3620 (trains only)/JTR, pars. C3510-A and C3620 (trains only) may authorize/approve business class accommodations use (two star level or civilian equivalent). Examples of reasons for use of business class accommodations are found in JFTR, par. U3520-C/JTR, par. C3520-C, and must be recorded on the Trip Record.

NOTE 1: If business class seating is provided at GOV'T expense, the traveler is not eligible for a rest period upon arrival at the duty site or a rest stop en route – at GOV'T expense.

NOTE 2: Scheduled flight time is the time between the scheduled aircraft departure from the airport serving the PDS/TDY point and the scheduled aircraft arrival at the airport serving the TDY point/PDS.

NOTE 3: The 14 hour rule only (JFTR, par. U3520-C11a/JTR, par. C3520-C11a) applies en route to the TDY site. On a return trip to the PDS, authority for business class transportation should not be provided.

NOTE 4: When use of business class accommodations is authorized/approved, use of business class airfares provided under the Contract City Pair Program is mandatory.

NOTE 5: When scheduling flights of 14 or more hours, the first choice is always to use economy/coach and arrive the day before the TDY begins to allow for appropriate rest. Second choice always is to use economy/coach and arrange an en route rest stop (preferably at a no-cost point allowed by the airline) with arrival on the day TDY starts. The last option, and the most expensive option that should be avoided whenever possible, is to use business accommodations arriving on the day the TDY starts. The AO is not required to authorize/approve a rest stop or an upgrade.

NOTE 6: 49 USC §40118(d) permits the Secretary of State and the Administrator of AID to authorize their employees to travel by foreign air carriers between two places in foreign areas even if U.S. certificated air carriers are available. This authority does not apply to a Uniformed Service member (The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, NOAA, and PHS), a DoD civilian employee, or their dependents. A Uniformed Service member, a DoD civilian employee, and their dependents are required to use available U.S. certificated carriers for all commercial foreign air transportation as indicated in par. T4060.

3. Using U.S. Certificated Carriers. Available U.S. certificated air carriers must be used for all commercial foreign air transportation of persons/property when the GOV'T funds the air travel (49 USC §40118 and [B-138942, 31 March 1981](#)). JFTR, par. U3525-D /JTR, par. C3525-D. *U.S. certificated carriers are not “available” if:*

a. Use of a U.S. certificated air carrier would extend the travel by at least 24 hours when traveling between a U.S. gateway airport and a foreign gateway airport that is the origin or destination;

b. Use of a U.S. certificated air carrier would require the traveler to wait four hours or more at a foreign gateway interchange point or extend the travel time by at least six hours more when traveling between two points outside the U.S.;

c. Use of a non U.S. certificated air carrier would eliminate two or more aircraft changes en route on a trip between points in foreign areas (i.e., the travel is not through the U.S. or a non-foreign OCONUS location);

d. The elapsed travel time by a non U.S. certificated air carrier is three hours or less and travel by a U.S. certificated air carrier would be at least twice the time;

- e. The travel can only be financed with excess foreign currency and available U.S. certificated air carriers do not accept the currency;
- f. Only first class accommodations are available on a U.S. certificated air carrier while less than first class accommodations are available on a non U.S. certificated air carrier; or
- g. Air transportation on a non U.S. certificated air carrier is paid in full directly, or later reimbursed, by a foreign government (e.g., under Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case funded with foreign customer cash or repayable foreign military financing credits), an international agency, or other organization. (B-138942, 31 March 1981 and 57 Comp. Gen. 546 (1978)); **NOTE: The Security Assistance Management Manual, Ch 4, par. C4.5.12 of DoD 5105.38-M, when travel is on Security Assistance Business.**

NOTE 1: *The 'Fly America Act' does not require travel across the CONUS when traveling between two OCONUS locations (e.g., Travel from Europe may be routed in an easterly direction to Asia instead of west via CONUS. When it is determined that a U.S. certificated air carrier is or was not reasonably available for the most direct route between two OCONUS locations, use of a non U.S. certificated air carrier may be authorized/approved (GSBGA 16632-RELO, 15 July 2005)).*

NOTE 2: *When using code share flights involving U.S. certificated air carriers and non U.S. certificated air carriers, the ticket must be issued through the U.S. certificated air carrier. If the ticket is issued through the non U.S. certificated air carrier is used on the ticket, the ticket is considered to be a non U.S. certificated air carrier and a non-availability of U.S. certificated air carrier document is needed.*

4. Travel Involving Leave or Personal Convenience Travel. The AO may permit a traveler to combine official travel with leave or personal travel. ***Contract fare travel must never be used for personal travel. JFTR/ JTR, APP P, Part 2, par. E.*** The official portion must be arranged through the CTO. Transportation reimbursement is authorized for the cost of official travel between duty stations only. The traveler may arrange other travel plans and pay the excess above the official cost; no excess costs for travel or M&IE are borne by the GOV'T. For a civilian traveler, JTR, par. C4563-C applies. A member is not authorized per diem on any day leave is charged. Do not permit a TDY trip that is an excuse for personal travel.

5. Lodging Selection

a. Lodging Arrangements. The AO should approve lodging arrangements arranged IAW Service/Agency procedures to minimize the use of rental cars and maximize the use of mass transportation when it is consistent with mission requirements and cost effective.

b. Lodging Required on the Day Travel Ends. When lodging is required on the day travel ends and the AO authorizes/approves the traveler to obtain lodging, the lodging reimbursement must be based on the locality rate, or AEA if appropriate, for the en route TDY site.

6. Rental Car. The AO may authorize the CTO to arrange a rental car when it is the most cost effective or efficient way to complete the overall mission. The compact car size should be authorized unless a larger rental car is justified IAW JFTR, par. U3330-C1/JTR, par. C3330-C1.

7. Authorized Trips Home during Extended Business TDY. ***The AO may authorize return trips to the PDS or home only when travel funds are available to support the travel expenses.*** The AO must determine that savings outweigh the periodic return travel costs. The TDY assignment length and purpose, return travel distance, increased member or employee efficiency and productivity, and reduced recruitment and retention costs must be considered. ***An analysis must be conducted at least every other year.*** The travel should be performed outside the traveler's regularly scheduled duty hours or during leave. For a civilian employee, scheduling the authorized travel to minimize payment of overtime should be considered. This authority applies only to business or training TDY.

8. Phone Calls to Home or Family during TDY. The AO may determine certain communications to a traveler's home/family are official. These communications must be only to advise of the traveler's safe arrival, to inform

or inquire about medical conditions, and to advise regarding changes in itinerary. The AO should limit these communications to a dollar amount in advance of the TDY so the traveler is aware of the limit. The AO may approve charges after the TDY, when appropriate (GSCBA 14554-TRAV, 18 August 1998).

9. Travel Expense Report. The Trip Record contains the expense report. The AO must review the amounts claimed on the traveler's expense report as soon after receiving it as possible. The AO's signature on the expense report certifies that the travel was taken, the charges are reasonable, the phone calls authorized for reimbursement are in the GOV'T's interest, and approves the reimbursement of the authorized expenses. Expense reports are subject to random selection for examination based on financial management directives.

10. TDY from Leave. An AO may direct someone on leave to perform TDY if the need for the TDY is unknown prior to the leave. If directed, the traveler must be authorized payment of normal TDY costs from the leave location to the TDY location and back to the leave location, or back to the PDS.

11. Shipment or Storage of HHG. An AO may authorize/approve shipment of UB for an employee (JTR, par. C4490), or a small amount of HHG for a member (JFTR, par. U4705) to the TDY location. Also, the AO may authorize/approve storage of HHG for a member when appropriate. For example, storage for a member may be authorized during a deployment. The rules for shipping and storage HHG while on TDY are in JFTR, Ch 4, Part H.

12. Lower or No Per Diem Rates. There may be situations in which the combination of published per diem rates with lodging and dining facility/mess availability may result in illogical payments. For example, a remote TDY location with no GOV'T dining facility/mess may have a club at which the meal cost is only a fraction of the full M&IE. In these cases, an AO may recommend payment of lower or no per diem to the Service PoC listed in the JFTR/JTR Introductions under the heading Feedback Reporting. ***Lower per diem rates can only be established before travel begins.*** See par. T4040-A13e for more on reduced per diem for a civilian

13. Allowable Travel Days. The CTO computes the number of days allowed for travel based on the transportation modes the AO specifies. See par. T4030-H. However, when the traveler uses more than the allowed days, the AO may approve the extra time as official. Generally, an AO should only approve extra time when the reasons for the additional time were beyond the traveler's control (for example, strikes, weather).

14. TDY within the PDS Limits. Per diem may not be paid for expenses within the PDS limits, except:

- a. Under emergency circumstances that threaten injury to human life or damage to GOV'T property when authorizing per diem is the only method to handle the situation; and,
- b. To a uniformed member escorting arms control inspection team members engaged in activities related to implementing an arms control treaty or agreement.

Reimbursement is for actual meal costs up to the PMR (not including IE) and/or the actual lodging cost up to the maximum rate for the PDS. Justifying reasons must be noted on the Trip Record.

15. TDY aboard Ships. Normally, a TDY traveler aboard a ship is fed without charge making the traveler ineligible for per diem. However, a TDY traveler aboard a non U.S. government ship may be charged for meals. In this situation, an AO can determine a per diem rate to cover the food cost. This should not be confused with an officer paying for meals in the same manner as a ship's company officer.

16. Additional Allowable Travel Expenses for an Employee with a Disability. An AO may authorize/approve certain additional travel expenses for an employee with a disability, such as the transportation and subsistence expenses of an attendant accompanying the employee, and the cost of renting and/or transporting a wheelchair. JTR, Ch 7, Part J, for specifics.

17. TDY Canceled or Modified. When it is necessary to cancel or modify a TDY trip after the traveler has incurred nonrefundable expenses in preparation for the trip, such as nonrefundable advance room deposits, an AO may authorize/approve reimbursement of those expenses.

18. TDY and RC Active Duty Time Limits for Per Diem Purposes

a. Except for TDY with units deployed afloat, TDY is limited to 180 consecutive days at any one location, unless a Service or Agency Headquarters, or the Commander/Deputy Commander of a COCOM, authorizes an extension. JFTR/JTR, Introductions for the Service points of contact. ***A civilian employee should consult Internal Revenue Service (IRS), state, and local rules for income tax implications for TDY beyond one year.*** A school of at least 140 days duration is a PCS for a uniformed member (except as noted in JFTR, par. U2240).

b. For an RC member, if ADT is fewer than 140 days, or fewer than 180 days for other than training duty at any one location, travel and transportation allowances are payable as for TDY. When an RC member is called to ADT for 140 or more days, or more than 180 days for active duty for other than training at one location, travel and transportation allowances are payable under JFTR, Ch 5, as for PCS for an RC member unless the call to active duty for other than training is because of unusual or emergency circumstances or exigencies of the Service concerned and the Secretarial Process authorized per diem.

19. Movement of an Employee's Dependents and HHG to Training Location. If the estimated per diem the employee would receive at the training location, based on AO approved arrangements, is more than the estimated cost of transporting the dependents and HHG to and from the training location, the AO may authorize round trip transportation of the dependents and HHG between the PDS and the training location in lieu of the estimated per diem payment. Transportation of dependents and HHG are IAW JTR, Chs 7 and 8. Private vehicle mileage is reimbursed under JTR, par. C5050.

20. Temporary Change of Station (TCS). Instead of authorizing extended TDY (between 6 and 30 months) for an employee, an AO may authorize a TCS. The employee (but not a member) is authorized limited PCS allowances rather than TDY allowances. JTR, Ch 5, Part O.

21. Termination of Per Diem when Traveler Dies while on TDY. When a traveler dies while on TDY, per diem continues through the actual (or determined) date the traveler died.

22. Per Diem when TDY or PDS Location Is a Reservation, Station, Other Established Area or Established Large Reservation Subdivision. When the TDY point or new PDS is a reservation, station, or other established area (including established large reservation subdivisions (e.g., McGuire AFB and Ft. Dix) that falls within two or more corporate city limits (e.g., the districts of Honolulu and any other such as Ewa, HI) or crosses recognized borders (e.g., Ft. Campbell is in TN and KY), the per diem rate is the locality rate specifically listed for the reservation, station or other established area. When the location (reservation, station or other established area) is not specifically listed in the per diem tables, the per diem rate is the rate applicable to the front gate location for the reservation, station or other established area.

23. Lodging Not Available at TDY Location. The TDY locality per diem rate for the location at which lodging is obtained is used for computation only when a traveler is TDY at a location where neither GOV'T QTRS nor commercial lodging is available. This applies only when the locality per diem rate for the lodging facility location is higher than the locality per diem rate for the TDY location. The higher per diem rate must be authorized/approved by the AO.

T4070 TDY GLOSSARY

Must, Shall, Should, May, Can, Will. See **HELPING VERB FORMS** in APP A.

PART 1: CITY PAIR PROGRAM

Regulations applicable to the Contract City Pair Program are found in [DTR 4500.9-R, Part I, Ch 103](#), pars. A2 and B2 (http://www.transcom.mil/j5/pt/dtrpart1/dtr_part_i_103.pdf). Following is an edited extract from that regulation.

A. Policy (DTR 4500.9-R, Part L, Ch 103, par. B2)

1. GSA Airline City Pair Program. Each year, under the Airline City Pair program, the GSA Federal Supply Service awards contracts for air transportation for travelers on official GOV'T travel. The contracts are awarded competitively based on the best overall value to the GOV'T. The best value decision is based on considerations of the type, distribution and number of flights, the average flight time, and the offered price. For more information, "Travel on GOV'T Business and Air Travel/City Pairs" (<http://www.gsa.gov/portal/category/27228>).

2. Some GSA routes may offer "dual airfares"; one airfare is an unrestricted airfare (fare basis code "YCA") and the other an unrestricted capacity-controlled airfare (fare basis code "_CA"). The unrestricted capacity-controlled airfare differs from the unrestricted airfare only in that the airline can limit the number of seats offered under the unrestricted capacity-controlled, or "_CA" airfare basis (referred to as "capacity controlled"). The unrestricted airfare, or "YCA", has a last seat on the aircraft availability to the traveler. Neither airfare basis requires advance purchase and has no minimum nor maximum stay requirements, travel time limits, or blackout periods. The unrestricted capacity controlled airfare is, in many cases, significantly less expensive than the unrestricted airfare. DoD travelers are encouraged to make reservations as far in advance as possible to increase the chance of obtaining an unrestricted capacity controlled GSA Airline City Pair airfare on the routes offering the dual airfare structure. The local CTO can provide information on what routes offer dual airfares.

3. *A GOV'T contractor is not authorized to use GSA city pair airfares to perform travel under a contract.*

*4. RESERVED

5. Non-mandatory Users. A non-mandatory user may request contract service, or have contract service requested, on an optional basis. Contract carriers may, but are not required to, furnish any requested service to non-mandatory users. Non-mandatory users are:

a. Any member and/or employee of the U.S. Congress; employee of the Judicial Branch of the GOV'T; employee of the U.S. Postal Service; U.S. Foreign Service Officer; and an employee of any agency who is not subject to the provisions of 5 USC §5701-5709.

b. Any group of 10 or more passengers traveling together on the same day, on the same flight, for the same mission, requiring group integrity and identified as a group by the TMS upon booking is not a mandatory user of the GOV'T's contract city pair airfares. For group travel, agencies are expected to obtain air passenger transportation service that is practical and cost effective to the GOV'T.

NOTE: A District of Columbia Government employee, with the exception of the District of Columbia Courts, is not eligible to use contract city pair airfares even though the employee otherwise may be covered by the FTR.

6. Exception to the Use of Contract Carriers: One or more of the following travel conditions, which must be certified on the travel order, travel voucher, or other document provided by the traveler or AO, must apply if a non-contract carrier or a contract carrier other than the primary contractor is used for travel within a contract route.

a. Space on a scheduled contract flight (including a confirmed pet space (***NOTE***)) is not available in time to accomplish the travel purpose, or contract service use would require the traveler to incur unnecessary overnight lodging costs that would increase the total trip cost.

NOTE: When pet shipment is the determining factor for non-use of the lower cost GSA Airline City Pair airfare, the traveler and not the GOV'T is responsible for costs exceeding the most economical travel

routing. DTR, Part I, Ch 103, par. B.2.c (note) for the source of this NOTE.

b. The contract carrier's flight schedule is inconsistent with explicit JFTR/JTR policies to schedule travel during ordinary working hours. See JFTR, par. U3030/JTR, par. C3030.

c. A non-contract (DoD approved) U.S. certificated carrier offers a lower airfare available to the general public, the use of which results in a lower total trip cost to the GOV'T, to include the combined costs of transportation, lodging, meals, and related expenses. ***NOTE: This exception does not apply if the contract carrier offers a comparable airfare and has seats available at that airfare, or if the lower airfare offered by a non-contract carrier is limited to a GOV'T and/or military traveler on official business and only may be purchased with a GOV'T procurement document (e.g., a GTR), GTCC, or through a centrally billed account (e.g., YDG, MDG, QDG, VDG, and similar airfares).***

d. Rail service is available and that service is cost effective and consistent with mission requirements.

e. Smoking is permitted on the contract flight and the nonsmoking section of the aircraft is not acceptable to the traveler.

7. Requirements that must be met to use a non-contract airfare (FTR §301–10.108)

a. Before purchasing a non-contract airfare one of the exception listed in par. A6 must be met and use of a non-contract airfare approved on the travel order; and

(b) If the non-contract airfare is nonrefundable, restricted, or has specific eligibility requirements, the traveler must know or reasonably anticipate, based on the planned trip, that the ticket will be used; and

(c) The traveler's agency must determine that the proposed non-contract transportation is practical and cost effective for the GOV'T.

NOTE: Carrier preference is not a valid reason for using a non-contract airfare.

B. Scheduled Air Carriers (DTR 4500.9-R, Part L, Ch 103, par. A2)

1. Contract air service between city pairs should be used for all domestic travel, and for international travel when AMC Category B/Patriot Express is not available or does not meet the mission requirement. ***If a contract city pair airfare is not available***, the POLICY CONSTRUCTED AIRFARE (See APP A1) (including a lower airfare offered by a non-contract carrier limited to GOV'T and military travelers on official business, e.g., YDG, MDG, ODG, VDG, and similar airfares) should be used. However, the AO retains the authority to authorize a lesser airfare and the traveler retains the ability to seek a lesser airfare. ***NOTE: Foreign military personnel are not authorized to use GSA city pair airfares.***

2. ***GOV'T contractor personnel must never be in possession of ITAs while in the performance of their contracts and are prohibited from using GOV'T discount airfares provided in the Contract City Pair Program when purchasing commercial airline tickets.***

NOTE: For civilian personnel, JTR, par. C3225-C for policy regarding Rail or Bus service use.

PART 2: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONTRACT CITY PAIR PROGRAM

A. City Pair Program FAQs

1. How does the program work?

- a. **First**, GSA concentrates the GOV'T's market share to make the most of the competition available. The GOV'T's delivery of market share drives the program. To ensure favorable airfares, a traveler is expected to select the contract carrier.
- b. **Second**, GSA works with GOV'T agencies attempting to meet the Federal traveler's needs by securing convenient and timely flights.
- c. **Third**, GSA works in partnership with the airline industry. The airfares are so attractive, that only a Federal employee (or a uniformed member and/or their respective dependents) traveling on official business is permitted use, with few limited exceptions.

2. What are the city pair program advantages?

- a. No advance purchase required,
- b. No minimum or maximum length of stay required,
- c. Fully refundable tickets and no charge for cancellations or changes,
- d. YCA seating not capacity controlled (If there is an available coach class seat on the plane, it must be offered to the traveler for purchase.),
- e. No blackout dates,
- f. Locked-in airfares facilitate travel budgeting,
- g. Significant discounts over regular walk-up airfares, and
- h. Airfares are priced on one way routes simplifying multiple destination travel.

3. Why can't contractors use it? It would save the GOV'T a lot of money!

GSA recognizes that although a contractor may work and travel with a Federal employee/uniformed member, a contractor is not a Federal employee. Because the contract fares are low and the terms favorable, the airlines do not extend the contract fares to a contractor. The program saves the GOV'T roughly \$2 billion annually. *GSA advises that the purchase of a contract city pair airfare ticket on behalf of a GOV'T contractor is wrong, is a misuse of the city pair program, and could jeopardize its future success.*

4. What are the traveler's responsibilities regarding refunds for partially or unused tickets?

An airline ticket purchased for a GOV'T traveler for authorized travel is unused or partially used when:

- a. Travel is terminated short of the authorized destination.
- b. The return portion of a round trip is not used.
- c. The travel actually purchased is different or of a lesser value than what was authorized.

The traveler is responsible for contacting the travel agent, CTO, or airlines (if purchased directly from the airlines) to obtain a refund and must notify the agency when refunds are due on an unused or partially used ticket (paper or e-ticket). The GOV'T and taxpayers lose millions of dollars each year when a traveler does not initiate the refund process.

5. What is a 'Code Share' agreement between airline carriers?

A code share is a commercial agreement between two airlines that allows an airline to put its two-letter identification code on the flight of another airline, as they appear in computerized reservations systems. Most airlines, including all City Pair Program contract carriers, participate in some type of commercial code share agreement.

B. City Pair Program Policy FAQs

***1. Who can use it?**

The City Pair Program is so attractive that usage is strictly limited by the contracts between GSA and the airlines. There are a few exceptions, but in general, only a Federal employee or uniformed service member and their respective dependents on official travel, may use the program with an appropriate form of payment (GTCC, either the IBA card issued to the traveler or a CBA used by an organization, or a GTR). GTR acceptance is limited to international travel, travel related expenses, and special circumstances for domestic travel. Special circumstances are defined as Acts of God, emergency situations, and when purchasing a domestic ticket in the U.S. in conjunction with travel that originated overseas.

2. Do I have to use the contract carrier? Won't any airline do?

A Federal or uniformed traveler on official business is required to use the contract carrier (as a 'mandatory user') unless a specific contract exception applies. This required use is one of the incentives necessary to obtain airline participation in the city pair program and allows the airlines to anticipate the business volume necessary to offer discounted rates. Choosing not to use the contract carrier because of personal preference, frequent flyer clubs, etc., is a violation of the contract and of Service/Agency policy and regulations.

Commercial airfares can be highly volatile, so an exception to the mandatory use requirement allows a GOV'T traveler to take advantage of any low commercial airfares offered by contract – or U.S. certified non-contract carriers, if the airfares are also offered to the general public. Non-contract airfares that are offered only to a GOV'T traveler (sometimes called "DG" airfares) are not included in this exception. When GOV'T/GOV'T contracted transportation/CTO (APP A) or in-house services are available, it is still mandatory for the traveler to use those services when arranging official travel.

Specific exceptions to the use of the contract carrier are:

- a. Space or a scheduled contract flight is not available in time to accomplish the travel purpose, or use of contract service would require the traveler to incur unnecessary overnight lodging costs which would increase the total cost of the trip (***NOTE: This does not allow for unreasonable 'schedules' as a reason for not using a city pair carrier.***); or
- b. The contract carrier's flight schedule is inconsistent with explicit JFTR/JTR policies to schedule travel during ordinary working hours (See JFTR, par. U3030 and JTR, par. C3030.); or
- c. A U.S. certificated non-contract (or the contract) carrier offers a lower airfare to the general public that, if used, results in a lower total trip cost to the GOV'T (the combined costs of transportation, lodging, meals, and related expenses considered); or

NOTE 1 to paragraph (c): This exception does not apply if the contract carrier offers the same or lower airfare and has seats available at that airfare, or if the airfare offered by the non-contract U.S. certificated carrier is restricted to a GOV'T or military traveler performing official business and may be

purchased only with a GTCC (IBA or CBA) (e.g., YDG, MDG, QDG, VDG, and similar airfares) or GTR where the two previous GTCC options are not available.

NOTE 2 to paragraph (c): *The 'exclusion to this exception' is that if the contract carrier offers the same or a lesser cost restricted airfare to the general public, the traveler/command must use the restricted airfare offered by the contract carrier. If the contract carrier offers a restricted airfare to the general public, that restricted airfare must be used by the traveler/command if using a restricted airfare unless another U.S. certificated airline offers a still lower restricted airfare not matched by the contract carrier.*

NOTE 3 to paragraph (c): *Discounted commercial airfare restrictions usually include non-refund ability, change or cancellation fees, minimum or maximum stay requirements and/or extended calendar blackout periods. A traveler/command that uses this exception would have to abide by the many restrictions that typically go along with lower commercial airfares. Allowing use of the restricted airfare should be stated in the travel order thereby making the command liable for change fees if any. If a traveler simply purchases the restricted airfare without command authority, the traveler is responsible for the change fees. A traveler/ command must ensure that uses of restricted airfares are to the GOV'T's advantage, meet mission needs, and require no foreseeable changes to the itinerary. Reimbursement for additional transportation expenses for changes to a travelers itinerary for reasons beyond the traveler's control (such as acts of God, restrictions by GOV'T authorities, changes in mission, or other satisfactory reasons) may be authorized/approved when certified by the AO.*

EXAMPLES: Airline X is the city pair contract carrier and Airline Y is another U.S. certificated non city pair carrier.

Example 1: If Airline X offers the same or a lower restricted airfare as Airline Y, the traveler/command must stay with Airline X the contract city pair carrier and use the contract carrier's restricted airfare. Even though Airline X matches Airline Y in the airfare, the traveler/command must use Airline X.

Example 2: If Airline X offers a restricted airfare to the general public, in addition to the contract city pair airfare, the traveler/command may opt to use the less costly restricted airfare on the city pair carrier (accepting all the restrictions) if permitted on the travel order.

Example 3: If Airline Y offers a lower/restricted airfare and Airline X does not offer the same or a lower restricted airfare to the general public than does U.S. certificated Airline Y, the traveler/command may use (Airline Y) the non-contract city pair airfare if permitted on the travel order.

- d. Cost effective rail service is available and is consistent with mission requirements; or
- e. Smoking is permitted on the contract flight and the nonsmoking section of the contract aircraft is not acceptable to the traveler.

NOTES:

(1) Any group of 10 or more passengers traveling together on the same day, on the same flight, for the same mission, requiring group integrity, and identified as a group by the travel management service (CTO) upon booking is not a mandatory user (i.e., cannot use without specific airline permission) of the GOV'T's contract city pair airfares. For group travel, agencies are expected to obtain air passenger transportation service that is practical and cost effective to the GOV'T.

(2) Contractors are not authorized to use contract city pair airfares to perform travel under their contracts.

(3) If the GOV'T contract city pair carrier offers a lower cost capacity controlled coach airfare (MCA, QCA, VCA, etc.) in addition to the unrestricted coach class contract airfares (YCA), the traveler should use the lower cost capacity controlled airfare when it is available and meets mission needs.

3. What makes the city pair airfare the best value? Isn't it just low bid?

Absolutely not. Awards are made after measuring both quality of service and price. This allows an award to be made to a higher priced carrier if that carrier has superior service.

4. How is Quality of Service Evaluated?

A minimum service standard is set for each city pair. This minimum applies to the number of flights per day in each direction, a maximum ground time (90 minutes domestic/180 minutes international) and limits on circuitry (how far out of the way the carrier can take you). Service standards change annually based on service availability.

To determine best value, a technical evaluation is conducted to evaluate the quality of each offeror's service based on the following considerations:

- a. Time and Type of Service: This factor looks for flights offered throughout the day. Nonstop service, at convenient times, scores best under this factor.
- b. Flight Time: This factor looks for the shortest total flight times, based on each carrier's routing. Nonstop service scores best under this factor.
- c. Number and Type of Flights: This factor considers the number of flights offered throughout the day, to provide the traveler with several choices. Carriers with lots of nonstop flights score best under this factor.
- d. Jet Service: This factor gives preference to jets over propeller aircraft.

All these factors are weighed against price and a best value decision is made.

5. Why isn't every award for non-stop service?

Even though non-stop service is heavily favored, it is not always available or the best value. Some of the reasons that connect service are awarded are as follows:

- a. A non-stop carrier is not available for a specific route.
- b. The non-stop carrier did not offer on the city pair. Some carriers have so much traffic on certain routes that they do not want the GOV'T business for the route.
- c. The non-stop carrier did not meet the minimum requirements as outlined in the RFP. For example, the nonstop flights might be too late at night to be beneficial for a Federal traveler.
- d. The non-stop carrier has offered an unreasonably high price.
- e. The connect service carrier has offered an airfare so low that it was the best overall value, even considering all the advantages of nonstop service.

6. Can't GSA make a carrier add nonstop service?

No. Even though the City Pair Program is huge, with sales well over \$1 billion per year, it still represents only about 2% of the airlines' business. Unless the commercial traffic warrants it, a carrier does not add a new route or improved service levels for the GOV'T.

7. Can GSA require the airlines to offer smoke free international flights?

GSA is buying a commercial service under the same terms and conditions as other buyers. Thus, GSA does not have the authority to require the airlines to offer smoke free flights. However, the Department of

Transportation is working closely with the airline industry to encourage them to offer smoke free flights. There is an exception in the contract to the use of the contract carrier when smoking is permitted on the contract flight (par. B.2, above, last exception listed).

C. City Pair Air Travel Accommodation FAQs

1. Do I have to use the contract city pair air carrier if authorized to use ‘other than economy/coach’ airfare (business or first class)?

Yes. The City Pair Program contracts are mandatory for coach and, within DoD, for ‘other than economy/coach’ service when the contract carrier offers an ‘other than economy/coach’ contract airfare. ‘Other than economy/coach’ service accommodations must be authorized IAW the JFTR, par. U3520 and JTR, C3520.

2. Can I upgrade to business class seating at GOV’T expense to accommodate my disability?

Maybe. IAW Agencies/Services’ policy, ‘other than economy/coach’ travel accommodations, due to a medical disability/special need, may be used only when there is no alternative means to accommodate the traveler’s condition (e.g., bulkhead, aisle seating, use of two adjoining economy/coach seats, etc.). The condition must be certified by a competent medical authority (i.e., a licensed medical practitioner) and authorized by the ‘other than economy/coach’ AO in advance of travel IAW JFTR/JTR requirements. A certification validating the medical disability/special need is effective for up to six months or the duration of the medical disability/special need, whichever is shorter. A medical disability/special need described as a lifelong condition requires a certification statement every two years from a physician.

3. Can the air carrier charge for seating ‘options’ and if so, is the charge reimbursable?

Some airlines have instituted charges for seats they believe to be ‘options’, i.e., front of the cabin, larger seats, etc. The choice to pay extra for ‘optional’ seats is personal to the traveler and is not a GOV’T requirement. The expense is borne by the traveler and is not reimbursable. Such situation can be avoided by making reservations early for the best seat selection possible as seat arrangements are under the carriers’ control, confirm seat assignments as early as allowed, early flight check-in prevents losing pre-reserved seats with late check-in times as these seats may be released for other passengers close to departure time. YCA airfares do not guarantee a specific seat is available to the traveler.

4. If I make a voluntary change after my ticket was issued, why does it have to be reissued?

The airline carriers charge a change fee to travel agents that do not reissue a ticket when a traveler makes a voluntary change to a ticketed transaction. This is a policy between the airlines and travel agents and not under the purview of the City pair program contract. If a travel agent does not change the record, the carrier won’t be able to determine if a flight is overbooked or if additional monies should be collected or refunded because of the change. When the traveler checks in, the record will not show the most recent changes, which may affect the ability to board that flight.

D. City Pair Airline Airfare FAQs

1. How do I know if there is a contract city pair airfare?

Contract city pair airfares are identifiable because they normally carry the airfare designator YCA or –CA. You can ask your (Contracted) Commercial Travel Office (CTO) or Travel Management Center (TMC) or check the following city pair website <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/category/27228>.

2. Can I combine two contract airfares to save money?

If there is a contract airfare for the origin to destination route, the answer is no. If there is no contract airfare for the origin to destination route, the answer is yes.

3. How can I know that my travel was ticketed using the GSA Airline City pair airfare rate?

The ticket shows a three-letter airfare basis code with –CA (Contract Award) as part of it. Airline City Pair tickets are issued using one of the following airfare basis codes:

- a. **YCA** = Guaranteed GSA economy/coach city pair airfare which is a highly discounted unrestricted airfare. If the GOV'T contract city pair carrier offers a lower cost capacity controlled coach class contract airfare (MCA, QCA, VCA, etc.) in addition to the unrestricted coach class contract fares (YCA), the traveler should use the lower cost capacity controlled airfare when it is available and meets mission needs.

NOTE 1: Personal frequent flyer or mileage reward points use ICW official travel is not a valid reason to request a YCA airfare when a –CA airfare is available. If the traveler elects to use the unrestricted coach class contract fares (YCA) when a lower cost capacity controlled coach class contract airfare is available and the cost exceeds the cost of the lower cost capacity controlled airfare, the traveler is financially responsible to the GOV'T for the cost difference between the YCA airfare and the lower capacity controlled airfare. CBCA 1511-TRAV, 7 May 2009.

NOTE 2: This does not establish the –CA as the basis for policy constructed airfare – that remains the YCA.

- b. **–CA** = Limited capacity, GSA economy/coach city pair airfare which capacity controlled airfare with a deeper discount preferred by the GOV'T.

The first letter of the three-letter airfare basis code in (b) varies by airline (e.g., LCA, QCA, etc). The only difference between the YCA and –CA is that there are a limited number of seats on the less costly –CA Airline City Pair rate which varies carrier by carrier and market by market. Therefore, a traveler should make flight reservations as soon as plans are firm.

If travel plans are uncertain (e.g., last minute ticket changes are likely), compare the difference between the YCA and –CA airfares with the cost (if any) of the travel agent's transaction fee to make ticketing changes. If the difference is small, it may be more cost effective to book an YCA airfare from the start. If the difference is large, it may be beneficial to book a –CA airfare and make changes, if necessary.

4. How early is early to take advantage of the GOV'T discount for normal airfare city pair airfares (–CA)?

The city pair airfare program encourages a GOV'T traveler to book reservations as early as possible. Once a traveler decides that a trip is necessary, the reservation should be made. The earlier the reservation, the better the chances are that the agency can receive the additional savings (–CA known as capacity controlled city pair airfares).

5. Why does the GOV'T have to pay the Airline Passenger Excise tax? Isn't the GOV'T exempt from tax?

The Federal GOV'T is often exempted from state and local tax. However, the airline passenger excise tax is a Federal tax which the Federal GOV'T must pay.

6. How can the cost of a city pair flight between two cities vary on the same airline, but different flights?

While the base airfare and tax are required to be the same for all of a contract carrier's flights (using the same airfare basis) between two cities, the airport and security fees may vary. The fees are based on the number of airports used, even if you do not change planes.

7. The price shown in the Defense Travel System (DTS) online booking engine (OBE) is different from what is shown on the GSA Airline City Pair website. How do I know I am getting the GOV'T rate for my airline reservations?

The DTS vendors' OBE displays valid GSA contract city pair airfare rates, but they display them differently than the GSA Airline City Pair website.

- a. The GSA website lists the airfares for general information purposes only. The GSA website shows the domestic price for the base airfare, tax included but without fuel surcharge fees, segment, airport and security fees. International Airline City Pair airfares on the GSA websites are shown as base airfare only, exclusive of all fees and tax.
- b. The DTS vendors can book reservations and show either the base airfare (without tax) or the total cost (base airfare, fuel surcharge fees, tax, plus airport and security fees) depending on which DTS vendor is used.

E. City Pair Travel Allowance FAQs

1. I live in an area/location with multiple airports. What is the rule regarding what airport I must use when traveling on official GOV'T business?

A traveler can use the airport that best suits the traveler's needs in an area/location with multiple airports, except when the AO determines based on command/installation/office written policy that a specific airport should be used after considering the most cost effective routing and transportation means (to include not only airfares, but also transportation to and from airports). Potential lost work time may be considered. CONUS areas/locations with multiple airports include, but are not limited to: Chicago, Dallas/Fort Worth, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, DC. *If the command/installation/office does not have a written policy, the traveler chooses which airport to use when constructing transportation cost.*

2. Can I use a contract city pair airfare for personal travel taken in conjunction with official GOV'T travel? What if the GOV'T cancelled my leave or I received my TDY order while on leave without knowing about the TDY before going on leave?

The use of contract city pair airfares is limited to official travel only. If personal travel is taken in conjunction with official GOV'T travel, the contract city pair airfares cannot be used for that portion of the trip since that travel is personal. These city pair airfares cannot be used to and/or from an unofficial point (such as a leave point) unless the GOV'T is paying for the leave travel to (and/or from) the leave point.

Example 1: A traveler receives a TDY order for TDY travel (*official travel*) from Atlanta, GA, (PDS) to San Francisco, CA, (TDY) and return. The traveler traveled from GA, to Chicago, IL, (*personal convenience*) to take leave in Chicago en route to San Francisco. GOV'T and traveler limitations are:

- a. Use the two one-way contract city pair airfare costs for the official travel legs (GA to CA and CA to GA) to determine the constructed transportation reimbursement limit. In this example, the GOV'T one-way airfare is \$251 and roundtrip is \$502.
- b. Reimbursement for the entire trip is limited to \$502. The contract city pair airfare is available only to the trip from San Francisco to Atlanta. The traveler must use airfares available to the general public for the GA to IL and IL to CA legs. The traveler is paid the lesser of actual or constructed expenses.

Example 2: A traveler goes on leave to Denver, CO. The leave is interrupted for official TDY to San Francisco, CA. The TDY assignment was not known prior to the traveler's departure on leave. The traveler's PDS is Atlanta, GA. GOV'T and traveler limitations are travel from Denver to San Francisco and return back to Denver to resume leave or back to Atlanta is *official travel*. City pair airfares may be used in accordance with JFTR, par. U4105-F (uniformed member) or JTR, pars. C4440 and C4564 (civilian employee).

NOTE: CTO use is mandatory for official travel from Denver to San Francisco and return to Denver or Atlanta.

3. What GOV'T sponsored leave programs qualify for contract city pair airfares?

Contract city pair airfare use MAY BE POSSIBLE for official GOV'T funded leave transportation programs listed below; and when ordered TDY while on leave if the TDY assignment was unknown prior to taking leave. Refer to the applicable leave transportation programs within the JFTR/JTR for actual authority when contract city pair airfares may be used.

a. **Civilian Employee:** RAT (Ch 5, Part K and APP I3-E4b), FVT (JTR, par. C7550), EVT (JTR, par. C7602), FEML (JTR, par. C7700), and R&R (JTR, par. C7750). A dependent also may qualify for certain leave transportation; refer to cited JTR references for authority.

b. **Uniformed Member:** COT (JFTR, par. U7200), Emergency Leave (JFTR, par. U7205), FEML (JFTR, par. U7207), and R&R (JFTR, par. U7300). A dependent also may qualify for certain leave travel transportation allowance; refer to cited JFTR references for authority.

F. **GSA Points of Contact.** GSA - Airfares (City Pair Program) at www.gsa.gov/citypairs or contact GSA by email at Travel.Programs@gsa.gov or phone 1-888-472-5585 for more information on GSA's Airline City Pair Program. *Only those without Internet access should call.*

***APPENDIX W: ADMINISTRATIVE WEIGHT ALLOWANCE LOCATIONS**

A. Authority. Only the locations in par. D have administratively reduced HHG weight allowances as indicated. If a location is not listed below then it is not a weight restricted location.

B. Authorization Period. The reduced administrative HHG weight allowance for the locations in APP W is effective until rescinded.

C. Submission Process. See JFTR, par. U5315-B4 and Service written material for the submission process. All submissions must be sent through a MAP/CAP member. See JFTR/JTR foreword for addresses.

D. Reduced Weight Allowance Locations. The below tour locations have reduced administrative HHG weight allowances as indicated.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Administrative Weight Limitation</u>
Alaska, Dutch Harbor	Uniformed Service Member . An incoming/departing member assigned to USCG Marine Safety Detachment (MSD) Dutch Harbor is limited to transportation of 1,000 lbs. of HHG as furnished GOV'T QTRS are available.
Bahrain	Uniformed Service Member . An incoming/departing member assigned to USCG PATFORSWA is limited to transportation of 500 lbs. of HHG as furnished GOV'T QTRS are available.
Japan, Camp Zama	<p>Uniformed Service Member</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A member is authorized to transport 25% of their net HHG weight allowance to/from Camp Zama, Japan. 2. Example: 11,000 lbs. X 25% = 2,750 lbs. net HHG weight allowance to transport to/from Camp Zama, Japan. <p>DoD Civilian Employee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An employee is authorized to transport 25% of their net HHG weight allowance (18,000 lbs.), including UB. 2. Example: 18,000 lbs. X 25% = 4,500 lbs. net HHG weight to transport to/from Camp Zama, Japan.
Japan, MCAS Iwakuni	<p>Uniformed Service Member</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Accompanied Tour</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A member on an accompanied tour is authorized to transport 75% of their full HHG weight allowance. The weight of UB shipment counts against the administrative weight restriction. b. An O6 on an accompanied tour as the Commanding Officer, at MCAS Iwakuni/Marine Aircraft Group 12 is authorized the full HHG weight allowance. 2. <u>Unaccompanied Tour</u>. ALL members on an unaccompanied tour (dependent restricted) are authorized to transport up to 10% of the full weight allowance as UB and/or other HHG. If an off base residence is pre-authorized by the gaining command via official correspondence, the member is authorized 10% or 2,500 lbs. of the authorized weight allowance, of which a maximum of 2,000 lbs. may be transported as UB.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Administrative Weight Limitation</u>
Japan, Okinawa	<p>Uniformed Service Member</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A member, on an accompanied tour, is authorized to transport 2,500 lbs. or 25% of their full HHG weight allowance, whichever is greater. The weight of UB shipment counts against the administrative weight restriction. 2. An O6 on an accompanied tour is authorized to transport 10,000 lbs. of HHG. 3. An O7 (and above) on an accompanied tour is authorized to transport the full HHG weight allowance.
Korea (<i>Except Chinhae, Osan & Detachment 452 Wonju</i>)	<p>Uniformed Service Member</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Accompanied Tour</u>. A member on an accompanied tour in Korea is authorized to transport 50% of their full HHG weight allowance. Exception: Chinhae, Osan, and Detachment 452 Wonju are full HHG weight allowance locations. 2. <u>Unaccompanied Tour</u>. A member on an unaccompanied tour in Korea is authorized to transport 25% of the administrative weight allowance, or 2,500 lbs., whichever is greater.
Korea, Kunsan	<p>Uniformed Service Member. A member is limited to their UB allowance or the option to surface transport 10% of the applicable full HHG weight allowance. <i>There are no accompanied tours at Kunsan.</i></p>
Qatar, Doha	<p>Uniformed Service Member</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>AL-Udeid AB</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>PCS</u>. A member, on a PCS order, is authorized an UB shipment preferably NTE 500 lbs. due to living QTRS size. b. <u>TDY</u>. A member on an extended 365 day TDY deployment <i>is not authorized</i> a UB shipment. 2. <u>AI-Udeid AB (USAF Member)</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>PCS</u>. Only a member on a PCS order is authorized an UB shipment. b. <u>TDY/ITDY</u>. A member on a TDY/ITDY assignment <i>is not authorized</i> a UB shipment IAW PSDM 08-47. c. <u>Weight Limitations</u>. A member is limited to the weight allowances IAW Table A3.1 of the USAF Supplement to the JFTR/JTR. d. <u>Guidelines for Small Living Space</u>. Due to small living QTRS at AI-Udeid AB, the guidelines for HHG shipment weight should be followed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) <u>E6 and Below</u>. 250 lbs. (or fewer) of HHG as living conditions will not accommodate any additional weight. (2) <u>O1 - O6 and E7 - E8</u>. 500 lbs. (or fewer) due to limited room space. (3) <u>Group and Squadron CC's and CMSgt</u>. No more than normal UB weight allowance.

Footnotes:

1. A USAF member is authorized to transport 10% of the full HHG weight allowance via surface or normal UB weight allowance IAW Table A3.1 of the ***AF Supplement to the JFTR/JTR***.

2. A USMC member is authorized to transport 10% of the administrative HHG weight allowance based on the limited size of the BOQ/BEQ QTRS and lack of ability to store excess HHG locally at the PDS.