

VOLUME 9, “DEFINITIONS”

SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES

Changes are identified in this table and also denoted by [blue font](#).

Substantive revisions are denoted by an asterisk (*) symbol preceding the section, paragraph, table, or figure that includes the revision.

Unless otherwise noted, chapters referenced are contained in this volume.

Hyperlinks are denoted by [bold, italic, blue, and underlined font](#).

The previous version dated September [2023](#) is archived.

PARAGRAPH	EXPLANATION OF CHANGE/REVISION	PURPOSE
All	Verified and updated references, hyperlinks, and formatting to comply with current administrative instructions, and made clarifying editorial changes.	Revision
Accompanied Baggage	Added to define the term, which is used in Volume 9.	Addition
Constructed Cost (Transportation)	Revised to clarify that the constructed cost includes more than the transportation ticket expense.	Revision
Government Quarters	Added to define the term, which is used in Volume 9.	Addition
Temporary Quarters Subsistence Expense-Actual Expense Reimbursement (TQSE (AE))	Deleted TQSE (AE) option in accordance with Civilian Advisory Panel (CAP) 39-24(R).	Deletion
Temporary Quarters Subsistence Expense-Lodgings Plus Reimbursement (TQSE (LP))	Added TQSE (LP) option in accordance with (CAP 39-24(R).	Addition

PARAGRAPH	EXPLANATION OF CHANGE/REVISION	PURPOSE
All	This instruction has been reviewed by the Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee (PDTATAC) staff in accordance with Department of Defense Instruction 5154.31, Volume 5, dated October 16, 2015, as PDTATAC Case RR25005. Any conflict between this publication and the Joint Travel Regulations (JTR) is resolved based on the JTR and not this publication.	Revision

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DEFINITIONS

1.0 General

The following list defines general terms of significance or importance relating to travel pay entitlement policies for the DoD that are discussed in various chapters in Volume 9. This list of definitions provides general information. It is by no means an exhaustive list of all financial management terms. The standard dictionary definition shall apply to any terms not defined in this chapter, unless otherwise indicated. Authoritative guidance with more detailed explanations or nuances may be found in Volume 9 specific chapters.

2.0 List of Definitions

*Accompanied Baggage

Government property and personal property of the traveler that is necessary for official travel. If the accompanied baggage is excessive in weight, size, or number of pieces, then the authorizing official may authorize or approve excess accompanied baggage subject to the restrictions listed for some types of travel in the Joint Travel Regulations (JTR)

Accountable Officials

Individuals appointed in writing to ensure the adequacy of system internal procedures, and serve as control points within an organization, focusing on minimizing opportunities for erroneous or improper payments.

Actual Expense Allowance

Payment of authorized actual expenses incurred, up to the limit prescribed by the JTR, as appropriate. Entitlement to reimbursement is contingent on entitlement to per diem and is subject to the same definitions and rules governing per diem. See the JTR, Appendix A, and paragraph 020307.

Actual Travel Time

The travel time from physical departure to arrival at the traveler's temporary duty (TDY) location or permanent duty station (PDS).

Agency Program Coordinator (APC)

The individual who administers the Government travel card program and acts as the liaison between the travel card vendor and agency cardholders. APCs are responsible to the respective Department of Defense (DoD) Component Program Manager (CPM) for program execution and management at hierarchy levels determined by the DoD CPM.

Allowable Travel Time

The number of days allowed for official travel. See the JTR, paragraph 020302.

Approve

As defined in the JTR, Appendix A, the ratification or confirmation of a completed act. Its use, with respect to official travel, applies equally to military and civilian personnel.

Approving Official

Individuals who direct and approve/disapprove travel requests and vouchers prior to claim settlement. They ensure the necessity and justification for travel orders.

Authorize

As defined in the JTR, Appendix A, the term 'authorize' is defined as the giving of permission before an act. Its use, with respect to official travel, applies equally to military and civilian personnel.

Authorized Travel Time

The maximum allowable travel time, determined before travel begins, and based on the mode of travel authorized in the orders.

Authorizing Official (AO)

The designated representative to whom final authority to issue travel orders is delegated in writing by a DoD Component, by organizational title, and/or by name. He or she directs travel and is responsible for funding. This is the same as Authorizing/Order-Issuing Official.

Authorizing Official (AO) (Defense Travel System (DTS))

An individual appointed in writing that is responsible for authorizing travel and approving travel claims by determining the necessity of trips and funds availability, assigning the proper line of accounting (LOA) prior to authorization, and approving travel claims for validity after completion of travel. The AO is the individual who controls the mission, authorizes the trip, and controls funds for TDY travel.

Cardholder

The cardholder is the legal agent of the Government Travel Charge Card (GTCC). The cardholder holds primary liability for the card's proper use and payment.

Centrally Billed Accounts (CBA)

A card or account established by the travel card vendor at the request of a federal agency. Through a CBA, the travel card vendor bills the Government and payments are made directly to the travel card vendor by the federal agency responsible for the reconciliation of the account. CBA's are issued directly to the Government and the Government retains liability for the CBA's.

Certifying Official

An individual, designated in writing, who is responsible for the certification of travel vouchers for payment and the verification that payments made by the Government are legal, proper, and correct.

Common Carrier

A private sector supplier of air, rail, bus, ship, or other transportation system.

Component Program Manager (CPM)

The designated headquarters program manager for each agency using the General Services Administration (GSA) SmartPay contract. CPMs are responsible for establishing the hierarchies for their agency and distributing program management information from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the Defense Travel Management Office, and the GSA.

Concurrent Travel

Travel under which the traveler is accompanied or immediately followed by the traveler's spouse and/or dependents.

*Constructed Cost (Transportation)

The sum of the transportation ticket cost, the Travel Management Company (TMC) fee, and other related costs that include, but not limited to, taxi and Transportation Network Company (TNC) fares, terminal mileage, baggage fees, ferry fees, parking, or rental car when authorized and necessary. See the JTR, paragraph 020210.F and Appendix A, Policy Constructed Airfare entry for more information.

Contiguous United States

The 48 contiguous states of the United States and the District of Columbia, which do not include Alaska (AK) and Hawaii (HI).

Continental United States (CONUS)

The 48 contiguous states of the United States and the District of Columbia. This definition specifically excludes the states of AK and HI as they are not part of the contiguous states and are

included in the definition of Non-Foreign, Outside the Continental United States (OCONUS) locations. See Title 37, United States Code, section 101 ([37 U.S.C. § 101](#)).

Defense Travel System (DTS)

An efficient, flexible system for electronically creating travel authorizations (travel orders), vouchers, and pre-audit documents and for completing the post-travel claims processes. DTS provides for paperless electronic routing, review, and approval of the travel and associated documentation.

Dependent

The term 'dependent' is defined in the JTR, Appendix A. Dependents of uniformed members can be acquired, command sponsored, or non-command sponsored.

Designated Place

See the JTR, Appendix A and Chapter 6, in reference to evacuation allowances.

Digital Signature

An electronic equivalent of a written signature. A digital signature can be used in proving to the recipient or a third party that a document or message was, in fact, signed by the originator.

Directed

An order to do something in a specific way.

Disbursing Office

An activity, or that organizational unit of an activity, whose principal function consists of the disbursement and collection of official funds for the Government.

Dislocation Allowance (DLA)

An allowance paid to military members to partially reimburse them for expenses incurred in relocating their households. See the JTR, section 0505.

Foreign Area

Any area or country outside the 50 states of the United States, District of Columbia, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and U.S. territories and possessions.

Funeral Honors Detail

A group of individuals not employed by the Government who participate in a funeral honors detail for a veteran and may be authorized transportation or transportation reimbursement, and expenses. See [10 U.S.C. § 1491](#).

Government Bill of Lading

A Government document used for the procurement of commercial transportation (moving) services.

Government Constructed Cost (GCC)

The “Best Value” cost the Government would have paid for Government procured household goods (HHG) transportation.

Government Dining Facility or Government Mess

A Government-owned facility, funded by appropriated funds. See the JTR, Appendix A.

*Government Quarters

Sleeping accommodations owned, operated, leased by the Government or obtained by Government contract, at no cost to the traveler. Government quarters do not include Privatized Army Lodging, Integrated Lodging Program (ILP) commercial lodging, or privatized housing. See the JTR, Appendix A.

Government Travel Charge Card (GTCC)

A charge card used by authorized individuals to pay for official travel and transportation related expenses for which the card contractor bills the Government (CBA) or individual (Individually Billed Account (IBA)). See the JTR, Appendix A.

Household Goods (HHG)

Items associated with the home and all personal effects belonging to a member/employee and dependents on the member's order effective date/employee's effective date of transfer/appointment that legally may be accepted and transported by an authorized commercial transporter. See the JTR, Appendix A.

Individually Billed Account (IBA)

A GTCC account issued to a traveler to pay for official travel and transportation expenses. The traveler is liable for the use and payment of the account. See the JTR, Appendix A.

Invitational Travel Authorization (ITA)

A term applied to the authorized travel of individuals who are: not employed by the Government; employed intermittently by the Government under [5 U.S.C. § 5703](#) as consultants or experts and paid on a daily basis (when actually employed); or serving without pay or at \$1 a year, or a volunteer covered by [10 U.S.C. § 1588](#). ITAs are not authorized for individuals merely to attend a meeting or conference, even if hosted by a DoD Component on a matter related to the Component's official business. The traveler must be an actual "participant" in the proceedings of the gathering, and not there only for attendance. See the JTR, section 0305.

Joint Travel Regulations (JTR)

The travel regulations that prescribe travel and transportation allowances authorized for members of the Uniformed Services, DoD civilian employees, and their dependents. The JTR is the Department's implementing guidance for the Federal Travel Regulation ([FTR](#)), issued by the GSA.

Line of Accounting (LOA)

A data structure representing a DoD account that may be used to track travel funding (i.e., transportation, per diem, meals, and incidental expenses) associated with an organization's budget and to ensure accurate accounting transactions.

Meals and Incidental Expenses (M&IE)

The term 'Meals and Incidental Expenses' is defined in the JTR, Appendix A, under Per Diem Allowance.

Non-Concurrent Travel

Travel under which the traveler is not accompanied or immediately followed by the traveler's spouse and/or dependents.

Non-Foreign Outside the Continental United States (OCONUS) Area

The states of AK and HI; the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands; Guam; the U.S. Virgin Islands, and U.S. territories, and possessions (excluding the former Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, which are foreign areas for JTR purposes.) See the JTR, Appendix A.

Object Classification

A code that classifies transactions according to the nature of the travel services performed rather than their purpose.

Open Travel Authorization

A written document issued or approved by an AO for the purpose of performing official Government travel for a continuous period of time. Also commonly known as a “blanket” or “repeated” travel authorization. See the JTR, Appendix A, definition of “Order.”

Other Than Coach Class (OTCC)

OTCC common carrier accommodations are first class, business class and premium economy class. See the FTR, § [301-10.121](#) for more information.

Outside the Continental United States (OCONUS)

The area outside of the 48 states of the United States and the District of Columbia. See the JTR, Appendix A.

Payment Review Official

An individual who conducts random pre-payment or post-payment reviews in accordance with Volume 5, Chapter 5.

Permanent Change of Station (PCS)

The term ‘Permanent Change of Station’ is defined in the JTR, Appendix A.

Permanent Duty Station (PDS)

The term ‘Permanent Duty Station’ is defined in the JTR, Appendix A. It is also referred to as “official station.”

Permissive/Administrative Travel Time

An authorized administrative absence not chargeable to leave and for which per diem and transportation allowances are not payable.

Personally Procured Household Goods (HHG) Transportation

The transport and/or storage (storage in transit and/or non-temporary storage) of HHG arranged by a member/employee and/or the member’s/employee’s agent.

Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) for Transporting People

Any transportation mode actually used for the movement of persons from place to place, other than a Government conveyance or common carrier. Included is a vehicle loaned for a charge to, or rented at personal expense by the Service member or civilian employee for transportation on

PCS or TDY travel, when such rental has not been authorized or approved IAW the JTR, paragraph 020209. A common carrier or a Government owned, chartered or leased vehicle is not a POV.

Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) for Shipment

Any motor vehicle owned by or leased (12 or more months) to a member/employee or dependents for the primary purpose of providing personal transportation. The vehicle must be self-propelled, licensed to travel on the public highways, designed to carry passengers or HHG; and must have four or more wheels. See the JTR, Appendix A.

Proportional Meal Rate

The average of the standard Government meal rate and the meals portion of the applicable [locality](#) M&IE rate, rounded up to the nearest dollar. See the JTR, Appendix A. This meal rate is used as prescribed in the JTR, Chapter 2, Table 2-17.

Receipt

A legibly written/printed/electronic document (or facsimile thereof) provided by a service provider or vendor to a customer, which provides documentary evidence that the service provider or vendor has been paid for services or goods, provided to the customer. To be considered valid, a receipt must contain the name of the entity providing the good(s)/service, the date(s) that the good(s)/service was/were provided/purchased, the price of the good(s)/service, any tax levied, the total monetary amount due, and must indicate that the total monetary amount due was paid.

Relocation Income Tax Allowance (RITA)

Reimburses an eligible transferred employee for the additional Federal, State, and local income taxes incurred by the employee (or by an employee and spouse if a joint tax return is filed) as a result of reimbursement, or payment, of certain travel and transportation expenses and relocation allowances that are not excludible from gross income for Federal income tax purposes. See the JTR, paragraph 053611, and the FTR, § 302-17. A domestic partner is not a spouse and the employee cannot be reimbursed for additional Federal, State, and local income taxes incurred by the employee's domestic partner if a joint tax return is filed.

Safe Haven

A designated area to which an employee and dependents and/or military dependents are ordered or authorized to evacuate. See the JTR, Chapter 6.

SmartPay

A GSA program that provides users with card-based tools to simplify procuring needs in three operational areas. The fleet card allows users to efficiently fuel and maintain vehicles, boats, planes, or equipment. The travel card allows users to purchase common carrier transportation, car rentals, lodging, and meals for official travel and travel-related expenses. The purchase card enables users to purchase goods and services to satisfy official business needs.

Split Disbursement

Divides a travel voucher reimbursement between the GTCC vendor and the traveler. Specifically, it is a payment option whereby the traveler can designate a specified amount of his or her travel entitlement be sent directly to the SmartPay travel card vendor to pay down his or her account balance, and the remainder of the entitlement sent to his or her personal direct deposit account.

Supervisor Review

A review conducted by a person who has supervisory responsibilities over the person whom he or she directs to travel. The supervisor has knowledge of the basis for the travel claim. The supervisor reviews the travel claim to ensure that it is valid and accurate. He or she signs and dates the travel claim prior to submitting it to the proper travel computation office.

Temporary Change of Station (TCS)

The relocation of an employee to a new PDS for a temporary period to perform a long-term temporary assignment, and subsequent return of the employee to the previous PDS upon completion of that assignment. See the JTR, Appendix A.

Temporary Duty (TDY)

Duty at one or more locations, away from the PDS, under an order providing for further assignment, or pending further assignment, to return to the old PDS or to proceed to a new PDS. For the purposes of Volume 9, temporary duty includes temporary additional duty (TAD) for those DoD Components that use TAD. See the JTR, Appendix A.

Temporary Lodging Expense (TLE)

An allowance intended to partially pay members for lodging/meal expenses incurred by a member/dependent(s) while occupying temporary lodging in CONUS in connection with a PCS. See the JTR, section 0506.

Temporary Quarters Subsistence Expense (TQSE)

A discretionary allowance, that is intended to partially reimburse employees for reasonable subsistence expenses to pay for lodging, food, and other necessities incurred when they and/or their dependents must occupy temporary quarters due to a PCS to a new PDS in the CONUS or non-foreign OCONUS. See the JTR, section 0542.

*Temporary Quarters Subsistence Expense Lodgings Plus Reimbursement (TQSE (LP))

An allowance that reimburses actual lodging expenses limited to the maximum locality per diem rate and meals and incidentals based on the locality rate. The rates may be found at: [Per Diem Rates](#). See the JTR, paragraph 054206.

Temporary Quarters Subsistence Expense Lump Sum Reimbursement (TQSE (LS))

A fixed amount payment based on the PDS location's maximum per diem that is in effect on the date that the fixed offer was accepted. Apply the per diem for the season in which the employee travels that is in effect on the day the employee accepts the fixed rate offer (e.g., offer accepted in November for travel the following June - uses the per diem rate in effect for the following June). ([CBCA 2189-RELO](#), September 12, 2011). See the JTR, paragraph 054207.

Transportation Officer (TO)

A person appointed or designated by the commander of a DoD activity to perform traffic management functions. This person may also be designated as "installation TO," "traffic manager," "traffic management officer," or "passenger TO."

Travel Authorization (Also referred to as a Travel Order)

A written or electronic instrument issued or approved by a person(s) to whom authority has been delegated, that directs an individual or group of individuals to travel.

Traveler

A military member(s)/dependent(s), DoD civilian employee(s)/dependent(s), and invitational traveler(s) who travel in an official capacity.

Travel Management Company (TMC)

A commercial activity providing a full range of commercial travel and ticketing services for official travel under a contract with the Government. This was formerly referred to as a Commercial Travel Office (CTO).

Travel Status

The Service member's/civilian employee's status for the elapsed period of time from the beginning to the end of official travel in compliance with the authority in an order, including time en route awaiting transportation connections and delays en route beyond the traveler's control. See the JTR, Appendix A.

U.S. Installation

As defined in the JTR, Appendix A, a base, post, yard, camp, or station under the local command of a uniformed service, with permanent or semi-permanent-type troop shelters and a Government Dining Facility/Mess, and at which there are U.S. Government operations. This includes only that area actually occupied by those operations (plus the minimum surrounding area necessary for close-in security) and excludes contracted hotels not contained on and operated by the Installation.

Withholding Tax Allowance (WTA)

An estimated partial payment that acts as an advance on the final RITA payment.

Year One (RITA)

The calendar year in which the WTA payment is made to a civilian employee.

Year Two (RITA)

The calendar year in which the RITA payment is made to a civilian employee.