# Defense Travel System 2017 Annual DTS Refresher Training



### I MEF / MCI West-CAMPEN DTS Helpdesk



# LDTA / Tier II Helpdesk

### **Composition**

- Staff of 31, supporting all DTS Administrators for I MEF, MCB Camp Pendleton, and MCI-West HQ
- Tier II Help Desk
- Disbursing AOs
- Located in Building 1164, Suite 262

Help Desk phone : (760) 763-7152 OMB: IMEFDTSHELPDESK@USMC.MIL



# **Topics**

- Resources
- System updates
- Lodging Reservations in DTS
- Flat-rate per diem
- Disbursing Approval Process
- Common Errors
- DTS / Government Charge Card
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Per Diem Entitlements



### **Resources and References**

- DTS MCO 4650.39A (being revised)
- DTS Regulations
- GTCC Regulations (updated Mar 2017)
- Joint Travel Regulations (re-written)
- DTMO website <u>http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/</u>
- Department of Defense Financial Management Regulations (DoDFMR) Volumes 5 and 8.
- Automated Pay Systems Manual (APSM) Chapter 10
- MARADMIN 291/12
- Desktop Guide for AO/CO



# **Tier II Helpdesk**

### **Responsibilities**

- Provide initial and refresher training for all appointed DTS personnel under DM1 and DM6187
- Provide assistance in troubleshooting
- Provide travel entitlement determinations
- Monitor and assign permissions
- Liaison for DTMO, TECOM, and HQMC regarding local DTS issues
- Voucher approval as required by MARADMIN 291/12
- DTS Debt Management



#### **Helpdesk Escalation Path**





#### **I MEF/MCI West DTS Website**

#### ✓ Forms

- ✓ Training calendar and info
- ✓ Training classes
- $\checkmark\,$  MCO for GTCC and DTS
- ✓ MARADMINs
- ✓ Links to travel references
- ✓ Travel Advisory Notices (TANs)
- ✓ Inspection Checklists



#### **Google: I MEF DTS** (it will be the first hit)

http://www.imef.marines.mil/DTSHelpdesk.aspx



#### Regional Disbursing Office-West Submission DTS Voucher Requirements

#### Available on the I MEF/MCI West DTS website



#### **DTS Regulations**



### **New DTS Initiatives**

- DTS will realign from M&RA to P&R (RFF)
- Build up of the Marine Corps DTS Helpdesk
- System updates
- Automate unit diary reportable entries (Leave, FSA, Special Pay)



#### System Updates (new My Expenses screen)

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#### System Updates (new My Expenses screen)

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# **TAD Timeline**

- 1. TAD requirement is identified!
- 2. Traveler applies for the GTCC
- 3. DTS profile is created and ODTA accepts profile or DTS profile is reviewed and updated.
- 4. DTS authorization is prepared and routed for approval.
- 5. DTS authorization is approved no later than 3 days before the trip.
- 6. DTS voucher must be completed and signed by the traveler within 5 days of returning back.
- 7. Unit must forward voucher to Disbursing or TECOM within two days
- 8. Disbursing/TECOM must approve vouchers within 10 working days



# **Authorizations**



### **Authorizations**

- When an authorization is approved, it authorizes a traveler to execute the TAD trip according to what was authorized in the authorization.
- It serves to tell the traveler what lodging and per diem rate he/she is entitled to.
- The traveler must have a copy of the authorization while traveling



# What Constitutes Official Travel?

- Travel to formal military schools (TECOM funded)
- Attendance at technical, scientific, professional, or similar meetings and conferences sponsored/arranged by non-Federal organizations
- Training course attendance conducted/sponsored by Gov't agencies, or approved under department / agency regulations
- Assignment as an attendant to a traveler with a special need/disability when the AO determines that the traveler is incapable of traveling alone on official travel



### **AO Must Ensure**

- TAD purpose is essential official business in the Gov't's interest
- TAD duration is no longer than required to complete the official business/mission
- > Number of travelers is held to the minimum
- Traveler's eligibility is based on official necessity and qualifications to best perform the mission



# **Routing Officials Responsibilities**

Responsibilities when reviewing, certifying, or approving authorizations:

- Ensure the authorization is in compliance with the JFTR, JTR, and any local travel policies.
- Ensure all foreseeable expenses are entered in the authorization.
- Ensure the correct lodging and meal rate is selected.

# *If not, advances and partial payments will cause travelers to be overpaid.*

- Ensure substantiating records are attached when required.
- Confirm that the proper LOA has been selected.
- Ensure traveler provides comments to the AO when necessary (pre-audit flags and any expense that requires AO justification).



### Flights must be booked in DTS





# **Trip Summary**





### Mandatory to use DTS for Lodging Reservations

- As of September 1, 2015, the JTR will require travelers going TDY to book lodging through DTS.
- DTS automatically routes travelers to the Lodging Reservation Module to book lodging when creating an authorization for multi-day travel.
- When lodging is not available in DTS, CTO will need to be contacted directly.
- Exemption must be selected in DTS when not booking lodging in DTS.
- In all cases, the traveler must provides comments to the AO. The AO must validate that reason a traveler is not using DTS to book lodging.

### Lodging requirements for uniformed personnel

- Government quarters must be directed for uniformed personnel if TAD is performed at a military installation.
  - If government quarters are not available when TAD to a government installation, the traveler needs to obtain a Certificate of Non-Availability from the billeting.
- When TAD to a *schoolhouse* or *formal training* the Installation Commander decides whether government quarters are directed.
- Civilians are highly encouraged to stay in lodging but cannot be directed



### **Integrated Lodging Program Pilot**

Section 914 of the FY15 <u>National Defense</u> <u>Authorization Act (P.L. 113-291)</u> authorized the Secretary of Defense to institute a government lodging program. That authority allows the Secretary of Defense to require both DoD civilian employees and members to stay in government (DoD Lodging), privatized or DoD Preferred commercial lodging while on official travel.



# **Integrated Lodging Program Pilot**

http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/lodging.cfm

### In the DTMO website, search for ILPP





#### Preferred Lodging Pre-Audit Flag

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#### AO must ensure appropriate comments are reflected in the Pre-Audit page

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### **Most Common Discrepancies**

- Lodging receipts (2 guests)
- > Trip descriptions (Do not use acronyms!)
- > Amounts claimed do not match receipts
- Missing justification for non-compact rental vehicle.
  "Authorized" is not acceptable.
- Conference meal statements
- > Mission related expenses
- POV mileage reimbursement from the *Residence* to the *TAD site*.

### **Most Common Discrepancies**

- Justification for utilizing AEA JTR 4320
- Disbursing cannot reimburse a traveler for the expenses of others
- In and around mileage must itemized or traveler must submit a mileage log







### **ODTA Required Reports**

- Unsubmitted Voucher Report weekly to ensure travelers are submitting their voucher
- Depart Status Report weekly to ensure authorizations are approved and tickets ticketed by CTO prior to commencement of TAD
- Pending Airline Cancellation Report daily to notify the AO that there are pending authorizations with reservations that need to be approved or cancelled
- Complete Traveler Information List monthly to ensure profiles are up-to-date



### **FDTA Required Reports**

**Approved Status Report** – every two weeks - to identify accounting rejects

**Budget Transaction Report** – every two months – to ensure transactions match the accounting systems

### **DMM Required Reports**

**Debt Management Report** – to identify debts

**Approved Status Report** – to identify vouchers in an AR Reject status



### **AO Required Reports**

- Unsubmitted Voucher Report weekly to ensure travelers are submitting their voucher
- Depart Status Report weekly to ensure authorizations are approved and tickets ticketed by CTO prior to commencement of TAD



# Government Charge Card







#### MCO 4600.40B and MCO 4650.39A Mandates that the GTCC be utilized for:

- Transportation, Lodging, Rental Car, and use to the maximum extent possible for travel related expenses
- Requires DTS profiles to be updated with GTCC information
- Set DTS profiles to "non-exempt" of the use of the GTCC unless exempt

Governmen	t Charge Card (GOVCC) Data
CSA/TTR: *	No
Gov't Charge Card Holder: *	
Advance Authorization: *	Card Holder
Mandatory Use Of GOVCC: *	Non-Exempt



### GTCC

- Unit AO is responsible to ensure traveler split disburse the balance of the GTCC
- Disbursing will also verify GTCC balance
- Provide comments on the voucher if the balance has been paid or if member has another voucher to cover the remaining balance
- Put card in mission critical status if you foresee a delay in getting the voucher settled.



# DTS Roles and Responsibilities


## **ODTA Responsibilities**

- Tier I Helpdesk (Assist travelers)
- Attach and detach travelers
- Update routing lists
- Maintain DTS profiles updated
- Extract, work, and annotate DTS reports



# **CPEN Routing List**

**ODTA Responsibilities:** 

- Maintain the CPEN routing list with unit personnel to:
  - review / certify / approve authorizations
  - review / certify / authorize vouchers.
- Insert unit AOs as voucher reviewers with the "Authorized" stamp, level 25.
- The CPEN routing list should be the unit's default routing list.

### **KEEP ROUTING LISTS TO A MINIMUM !**



# Routing Officials





## **Pecuniary Liability**

<u>Pecuniary Liability</u> - Personal financial liability for fiscal irregularities of disbursing, certifying, and accountable officials as an incentive to guard against errors and theft by others, and to protect the government against errors and <u>dishonesty</u> by the officers themselves.

DoD Directive 7000.15, "DoD Accountable Officials and Certifying Officers"

It is DoD policy to appoint certifying officers in accordance with Title 31, United States Code, section 3325. Certifying officers are pecuniary liable for erroneous payments resulting from the performance of their duties in accordance with Title 31, United States Code, section 3328.

Further, it is the DoD policy that other officials involved in authorizing payments are accountable and that these accountable officials shall be pecuniary liable for erroneous payments resulting from the <u>negligent performance of their</u> <u>responsibilities</u>.



## Entitlements

#### THE JOINT TRAVEL REGULATIONS

**UNIFORMED SERVICE MEMBERS** 

AND

**DOD CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES** 





JTR

### **Obligation To Exercise Prudence In Travel**

"A member must exercise the same care and regard for incurring expenses to be paid by the GOV'T as would a prudent person traveling at personal expense."



## **Per Diem Entitlements**

#### Meals Rates

•GMR - Government messing available for all three meals •PMR - One or two meals provided at no cost to the traveler •CMR – Government messing not available.

 Must be occupying Government Quarters to prescribe the Government Meal Rate (GMR) or the Proportional Meal Rate (PMR).

It would be improper to change the meal rate after the Authorization is approved.

 The only exceptions are when meals are included in the registration fees, conference fees, or when reporting orders have the required Quarters and Messing Statements. If there is no statement then the meal rate is reduced to incidentals.

No Per Diem while aboard a government vessel, PTAD, leave, or field duty.



## **Per Diem Entitlements**

### Meal Rates (cont.)

### What to click in DTS

- ✓ Full rate: traveler is authorized the full locality meal rate (CMR)
- Available rate: government meals are available on a U.S. installation (GMR)
- ✓ Provided rate: some meals are provided (PMR)
- ✓ OCONUS incidental amount- OCONUS on base incidental rate or contingency per diem (\$3.50)



### **Receipt Requirements**

Air fare receipt if it was paid by the traveler (GTCC)

- All lodging receipts. Receipts must be itemized and zero balance!
- Rental Vehicle
- Expenses of \$75.00 or more

**Receipts must reflect:** 

- $\checkmark$  Name of company providing goods or services
- $\checkmark$  Date the specific services were rendered or articles were purchased
- ✓ Unit price of item(s)/service
- ✓ Total amount due
- ✓ Total amount due was paid





### **Transportation** It is DOD mandatory policy that travelers use available CTOs to arrange official travel.

### **Commercial Air**

- Contract GSA "City Pairs" unrestricted fares should be the first choice.
- May authorize a Non-GSA "City Pair" flight when it is in accordance with the JFTR/JTR:
  - Leave in Conjunction (travelers may not use their GTCC)
  - No Contracted flights

• For travel beginning from the Camp Pendleton area, flights should depart from San Diego Airport. The AO can authorize an alternate airport if it is cost effective or mission essential. AO must annotate the justification on the authorization.

 Flights must be charged to the GTCC vice Centrally Billed Account (CBA) for GTCC holders.



## **DMO's Comments On The Authorization**

Defense Travel System	Itinerary Travel Expenses Accounting Additional Options Review/Sign
RETURN TO LIST	Preview Other Auths. Pre-Audit Digital Signature
	Print Document
Preview Trip	
Other Authorizations.	ake edits, click on the links at the left to return to that section. If you have no changes proceed to sportation, lodging and rental car expenses. <u>Click here for memorandum</u> DMO advising the AO that there is a cheaper flight. AO must return the authorization to the traveler to
Document Comments	change the flight or the AO must
bocument comments	justify this flight
Comments to the Approving Official:	None
	Air Comments: CTO BOOKED-PLEASE REVIEW SEGMENTS DATES AND TIMES ONLY A ONEWAY RES



**Reference: JTR, chapter 4, part B, section 4** 

- Effective for travel beginning or orders amended on or after 1 November 2014. A reduced flat-rate per diem applies when a traveler is assigned long-term TAD (more than 30 days at one location).
- DTS authorizations must include the flat-rate per diem payable.
- This will ensure that travelers understand exactly what they will be paid.



Exemptions:

- The flat rate per diem does not apply when government lodging or contracted government lodging is available AND directed, when contracted government lodging is provided at no cost, or if a traveler chooses to stay in government quarters.
- The Government Meal Rate (GMR) and Proportional Meal Rate (PMR) are still payable based on the availability of government messing. The GMR and PMR are not prorated to either 75% or 55%.



### **Per Diem Entitlements Page**

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information the defau ** The preselected,	is a list of per diem all on (e.g., duty condition It rates for that date ar esence of two asterisks impacting the allowabl Tax Exemption Listing	is, meals p nd location before the	Location N	c.) for a specif lame indicates	fic date or date ra	ange. The "reset"	link changes the	per dien	n inf	forma	ation to
Date	Location	View	Reset	Ldg Cost	Ldg Allowed	M&IE Allowed	Per Diem Rate	Code	в	L D	Qtrs
09/13/15	QUANTICO MC COMBAT DEV CMD,VA	> <u>View</u>	N/A	\$85.00	\$85.00 GOVCC- Individual	\$42.00 Personal	85 / 56	QTRS			AVAIL
09/14/15	QUANTICO MC COMBAT DEV CMD,VA	> <u>View</u>	N/A	\$85.00	\$85.00 GOVCC- Individual	\$56.00 Personal	85 / 56	ADEF			AVAIL
	QUANTICO MC	> <u>View</u>	N/A	\$85.00	\$85.00 GOVCC-	\$56.00 Personal	85 / 56	ADEF			AVAIL
09/15/15	COMBAT DEV CMD,VA				Individual						
09/15/15	QUANTICO MC COMBAT DEV CMD,VA	> <u>View</u>	N/A	\$85.00	S85.00 GOVCC- Individual	\$56.00 Personal	85 / 56	ADEF			AVAIL
	QUANTICO MC	> <u>View</u> > <u>View</u>	N/A N/A	\$85.00 \$85.00	\$85.00 GOVCC-		85 / 56 85 / 56	ADEF ADEF			AVAIL AVAIL
09/16/15	QUANTICO MC COMBAT DEV CMD,VA QUANTICO MC				\$85.00 GOVCC- Individual \$85.00 GOVCC-	Personal \$56.00					

Proceed to the following page:

Accounting Codes

Continue

 $\sim$ 



- > On the travel day to the TDY location, the traveler receives 75% meals and incidental expenses (M&IE).
- For TAD that will last 31 -180 days (in a single location), the authorized flat rate is 75% of the locality rate (lodging and M&IE). The 75% is paid from day one.
- For TAD that will last 181 days or greater (in a single location), the authorized flat rate is 55% of the locality rate (lodging and M&IE).



- Travelers must incur a lodging cost in order to be reimbursed flat rate per diem.
- No lodging receipts are required for reimbursement.
- If the traveler did incur a lodging expense, the AO is required to verify and annotate in the voucher that the traveler did incur lodging: *I certify that this traveler will incur a lodging expense.*



What if a traveler cannot find suitable lodging under the flat-rate per diem?

- If travelers are unable to find suitable commercial lodging at or under the reduced per diem rate, they must contact SATO/RAVENAL for assistance.
- Disbursing will require a statement from CTO/unit AO to certify that lodging was not available at the flat-rate (lodging) rate.
- The AO may then authorize reimbursement for the actual lodging cost (not to exceed the locality per diem rate).
- > The meal rate will still be paid at the flat-rate.



Research the Flat-Rate per diem in the Per Diem Rates Query and update the authorization.	Per Diel	ense Travel S v Era of Government in To LIST m Entitlement is a list of per diem a on (e.g., duty conditi ault rates for that of Tax Exemption List	allowances for tions, meals pridate and locati	Nor lodging and ovided, etc.	n-Mileage meals/incident	als for each day	er Diem Entitl	ements Sub	ostantia ws you to	ting Re	the
	Date	Location	Edit	Reset	Ldg Cost	Ldg Allowed	M&IE Allowed	Per Diem Rate	Code	BL	D Qtrs
	11/01/14	CHICAGO,IL	> <u>Edit</u>	> <u>Reset</u>	\$194.00	\$194.00 GOVCC- Individual	\$53.25 Personal	194 / 71	NONE		
	11/02/14	CHICAGO,IL	> <u>Edit</u>	> <u>Reset</u>	\$146.00	\$146.00 GOVCC- Individual	\$54.00 Personal	194 / 71	SPEC		
	11/03/14	CHICAGO,IL	> Edit	> <u>Reset</u>	\$146.00	\$146.00 GOVCC- Individual	\$54.00 Personal	194 / 71	SPEC		
•	11/04/14	CHICAGO,IL	> <u>Edit</u>	> <u>Reset</u>	\$146.00	\$146.00 GOVCC- Individual	\$54.00 Personal	194 / 71	SPEC		
Per Diem Rates Query			> <u>Edit</u>	> <u>Reset</u>	\$146.00	\$146.00 GOVCC- Individual	\$54.00 Personal	194 / 71	SPEC		
CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES OUTSIDE CONUS, Non-Foreig Updated: 09/29/2014 Updated: 09 View summary of changes View summary	29/2014	oreign	> <u>Edit</u>	> <u>Reset</u>	\$146.00	\$146.00 GOVCC- Individual	\$54.00 Personal	194 / 71	SPEC		
STATE:     FISCAL YEAR:     COUNTRY/STATE: (incl. Alaska & H       STANDARD CONUS RATE     2015     HAWAII	awaii) PU	BLISHED:	> <u>Edit</u>	> <u>Reset</u>	\$146.00	\$146.00 GOVCC- Individual	\$54.00 Personal	194 / 71	SPEC		
TDY 31 to 180 days (75%) / over 180 days (55%)			> Edit	> Reset	\$146.00	\$146.00 GOVCC-	\$54.00	194 / 71	SPEC		
INCLUDE ALL CITIES AND TOWNS INCLUDE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS CALCULATE For unlisted locations, use the CENSUS County Look-up site.										,	



#### Lodging tax

- Lodging taxes [CONUS and non-foreign OCONUS (see appendix A for definition)] are separate reimbursable expenses (nonmileage expense).
- Lodging tax is not separately reimburse when TAD to an OCONUS location.
- Lodging receipts will be required if requesting lodging tax reimbursement.
- Lodging taxes must be prorated if the lodging cost alone exceeds the amount of flat-rate per diem for lodging.



## **Rental Vehicles**

It is mandatory, to obtain rental vehicles through the CTO/SATO



Compact car is the 'standard' for TAD travel. AO can approve upgrade when compact car does not meet mission requirements.

- AO must make comments why upgrade is authorized.
- Insurance is NOT reimbursable within CONUS.
- Insurance is reimbursable and recommended for OCONUS TAD.
- Prepaid full option is not authorized!



### **Reimbursable Expenses**

> JTR chapter 2 and Appendix G

Effective 1 October 2014

- ATM fees, certain baggage tips, laundry/dry cleaning and transportation tips are no longer reimbursable.
- They are part of the Incidental Expense portion of the M&IE. The JTR, appendix G has been updated to reflect this change.



#### **Incidental Expenses**

- Hotel employees, fees and tips to porters, baggage carriers, flight attendants involving all official domestic and foreign travel. Civilian employee, see par. 7815-F4, regarding baggage-handling costs incurred as a direct result of an employee's disability.
- Transportation (i.e., bus, subway) between places of lodging or duty/business and places at which meals are taken, if suitable meals cannot be obtained at the TDY site. If the AO determines that suitable meals cannot be obtained at the TDY location and reimbursement in the IE for travel to obtain suitable meals is inadequate, reimbursement may be authorized/approved under JTR, par. 2810-C.;
- Laundry/dry cleaning, and/or pressing of clothing regardless of location;
- Potable water and ice (28 Comp. Gen. 627 (1949));
- Tax and service charges (other than vendor surcharges for using a credit card) for any of the expenses listed in item F.; and
- Any other necessary expenses related to lodging that are listed in the room account.
- Administrative fees for ATM use; and
- Transportation tips for all transportation modes (commercial or courtesy conveyance).



#### **Common Reimbursable Expenses Claimed**

- Excess baggage
- Airport parking (cannot exceed 2 one way cab fares)
- Hotel taxes
- Gas for rental car
- Taxi to/from the terminal



#### **Reimbursable Expenses**

#### The Following Expenses Require Justification:

Excess Baggage Birth Certificate Daytime Lodging Fees Communication Services Computer Connections Nonrefundable Room Deposits Driver Services Early Green Card Passport, Visa, Fees Registration/Conference fees License/ Permit, International Driver Dual Lodging Interpreter Services Lodging While on Leave Operating Cost for Govt Vehicles GTCC Expedited Fees Checkout Fees GTCC Late Fees Legal Service Fees



## TAD In Excess Of 180 Days

### **MARADMIN 601 / 05**

- JTR: TAD limited to 180 days
- TAD in excess of 180 days requires CMC (MMIB-3)
- Exceptions:
  - Units / IA scheduled to deploy in the CENTCOM AOR ISO OIF/OEF NTE 425 days
  - Up to 270 days for AC/AR Marines TAD ISO contingency operations
- Submit request for TAD in excess of 180 via CMC (MMIA) OMB

### smb\_manpower\_mmia@usmc.mil



## Travel

### **1 Day TAD outside the local limits of the PDS**

#### Over 12 Hours:

•The Traveler will rate 75% of the per diem rate. If there are multiple TAD sites, the highest rate is paid.

•An authorization and voucher must be done in DTS.

#### Under 12 Hours:

• The AO may authorize actual expense for occasional meals not to exceed the proportional meal rate based on the applicable per diem rate where the duty is performed. If there are multiple TAD sites please use the highest proportional meal rate.

•A Local Voucher is used to claim mileage reimbursement and missed meals (if authorized).



## Travel

### Local Vouchers

- Used for reimbursement of expenditures on official business
- Traveler should receive necessary transportation expenses, when transportation is not provided.
- If a POV is used, the traveler will receive the mileage driven minus their normal commuting distance or expense.
- Odometer Reading must be used for Local Travel. Utilized for travel related expenses only.



### Points of Contact

- Email
  - IMEFDTSHelpdesk@usmc.mil
- Telephone
  - (760)763-7152
- DTS Website
  - http://www.imef.usmc.mil/external/imef01/defense\_travel\_s ystem.jsp

