



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS
701 S. COURTHOUSE ROAD, SUITE 1001
ARLINGTON, VA 22204-2490

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Docket No. 8354-22
Ref: Signature Date

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Dear █:

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to Section 1552 of Title 10, United States Code. After careful and conscientious consideration of relevant portions of your naval record and your application, the Board for Correction of Naval Records (Board) found the evidence submitted insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice. Consequently, your application has been denied.

A three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 26 January 2023. The names and votes of the members of the panel will be furnished upon request. Your allegations of error and injustice were reviewed in accordance with administrative regulations and procedures applicable to the proceedings of this Board. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of your application, together with all material submitted in support thereof, relevant portions of your naval record and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies.

In accordance with The Joint Travel Regulations (JTR) 2022. A Service member on a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) order is authorized reimbursement for mandatory quarantine fees for household pets. A household pet is a cat or a dog. Reimbursement for the actual cost of these fees is authorized, limited to \$550 per PCS move. See Pet Quarantine Information and the DTMO website for more details. Transportation for a household pet is not a reimbursable expense unless the transportation is due to an evacuation from a foreign Permanent Duty Station (PDS) in accordance with par. 060204.

When a traveler chooses transportation that is more expensive than the lowest Government-contracted airfare because he or she is transporting a pet, then the traveler is financially responsible for the additional costs.

A Service member is authorized transportation and quarantine fees for up to two household pets (defined as a cat or dog) to and from a safe haven or designated place if he or she currently owns them at the evacuated foreign PDS. If the Service member transports the pets at personal expense, then reimbursement is limited to the constructed cost that the Government would have incurred if it had transported the pets.

On 2 August 2020 you were joined to █ for duty. On 8 August 2022 you were transferred from █. On 17 August 2022 the Commanding Officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station █ notified Director, Installation Personnel Administration Center, █

Outbound that It is requested that [REDACTED] is approved for an exception to policy to leave on or about September 5th due to military flights being unavailable for him his family and pet per MARADMIN 204/22. His orders are scheduled with a no later than date of 25 September 2022.

On 4 September 2022 [REDACTED] issued you an invoice with a pick up from [REDACTED] airport hotel on 5 September 2022 and drop off at [REDACTED]. Total price was \$5,924.82. On 7 September 2022 you were joined to [REDACTED] for duty.

On 20 October 2022 the Regional Disbursing Office – Pacific [REDACTED] MLG, [REDACTED] MEF) notified you that after the discussion, they concluded that RFF-KCI does not have the authority to approve reimbursement for personally procured commercial pet transport. There are two remaining COAs that I recommend pursuing simultaneously.

[REDACTED] ran into a similar situation for another Marine who had to submit a case to the Board for Correction of Naval Records (BCNR). In short, it appears that the change in pet transport availability was not your fault and should be amended via judicial avenues. The reason that they cannot pursue this issue internally, is that their regulations and higher offer little to no leeway in reimbursement for personally-procured commercial pet transportation. Ultimately, they need authority from a higher entity such as BCNR.

An approval for reimbursement may also come from Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (MMIB). Similar to requesting approval for reimbursement for excess baggage, an AA form must be drafted and sent to be signed by your immediate CO (O-5 or above). Once this request is signed, please submit it to smb.manpower.mmib3@usmc.mil. Once the request is approved, please send the approval directly to himself or [REDACTED] and they will work to have you reimbursed as soon as possible.

You requested relief of financial strain due to shipment of pets during PCS to [REDACTED] on or about 5 September 2021. The Board, in its review of your entire record and application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, to include your assertions. However, the Board concluded that per the JTR, transportation for a household pet is not a reimbursable expense unless the transportation is due to an evacuation from a foreign PDS. It is recommended that you seek relief via HQMC (MMIB) as suggested by 20 October 2022 email correspondence from the OIC (PSC Section), Regional Disbursing Office-[REDACTED] which you provided to the Board for review, and which was referenced above.

You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon submission of new matters, which will require you to complete and submit a new DD Form 149. New matters are those not previously presented to or considered by the Board. In this regard, it is important to keep in mind that a presumption of regularity attaches to all official records. Consequently, when applying for a correction of an official naval record, the burden is on the applicant to demonstrate the existence of probable material error or injustice.

Sincerely,

1/30/2023

[REDACTED]

Deputy Director

Signed by: [REDACTED]