



Work-Product

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2024-00784

Work-Product

COUNSEL: Work-Product

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

Reimbursement for temporary storage in-transit (SIT) costs, associated with a personally procured move (PPM) for 28,520 pounds of household goods (HHG), stored in four storage units for the period of 14 Jun 23 – 30 Sep 23 in the amount of \$2,321.04.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

In Jun 23, he performed a permanent change of station (PCS) move from Work-Product AFB, Work-... to his new duty station, Work-Pro... AFB, Wor... He did a full PPM move and hired a truck to transport his HHG from Work... to Wor... Although he knew he was over his allowable HHG weight limit, he was unsure of the amount. When he arrived at his new duty location on 9 Jun 23, he was still in the process of purchasing a home and was not able to "close" until 28 Jun 23; however, his HHG was scheduled to be delivered on 14 Jun 23. As he knew he would be receiving his HHG prior to closing, he went to his local Traffic Management Office (TMO) and asked and received the following:

- Am I allowed to utilize a storage unit for my stuff...if so, how long? They told me I was authorized 90 days of temp storage, and if needed I could get approval for longer.
- What required documents do I need to get reimbursed? They told me I would need: my orders, my original weight tickets, and my storage unit receipts/contracts.
- Is there a maximum reimbursement amount? They said the cap is quite high, and no one ever reaches it, so do not worry about it. They conferred with another rep and came back and said nearly \$5,000.00.

When the hired truck arrived with his HHG, they delivered it to the four (4) storage units he rented. A few weeks later he submitted his PPM documents and everything went smoothly; no big issues except some missing signatures. He closed on his house and over the next three (3) months he slowly made daily/weekly trips to the units to move his property to his house. However, after the 90 days had passed and he submitted the documentation requested by the base's TMO, they denied paying 95 percent of the storage costs citing regulations requirements, which were never communicated to him.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2024-00784

Work-Product

Controlled by: SAF/MRB

CUI Categories: Work-Product

Limited Dissemination Control: N/A

POC: SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is an Air Force master sergeant (E-7).

According to Special Order Number [REDACTED] dated 7 Mar 23, the applicant was issued PCS orders from [REDACTED], [REDACTED] to [REDACTED], [REDACTED] with a report no later than date of 31 Jul 23.

On 15 May 23, according to DD Form 2278, *Application for Personally Procured Move and Counseling Checklist*, dated 15 May 23, Section 6, *Entitlements*, Box c, *Maximum weight*, reflects 13,000 lbs. Box d, *Estimated weight of HHGS including PBP&E*, reflects 13,000 lbs.

On 13 Oct 23, according to email *CUI PPM Storage DD2278 for Signature*, the local TMO – 78LRS/LGRDF- informed the applicant that after further review of his storage packet with no weight tickets, the regulations, and receiving guidance from HQ's, the amount they can reimburse him for is the 10x30x8 Unit from 15-30 Jun 23 as he took possession of his home on 28 Jun 23 per his previous email. It further stated "The 10x30x8 unit was determined per information search from the web; that size unit will hold up to a 5 bedroom house."

On 13 Oct 23, according to DD Form 2278, dated 13 Oct 23, Section A. *Actual Constructive Costs*, (6) *Reimbursement Amount*, reflects he received reimbursement in the amount of \$170.67. Box 6. *Entitlements*, Block c. *Maximum authorized weight*, reflects 13,000. Further, it reflects the following statement: "Only Authorized for One Storage Unit and Admin Fee from Storage Receipt on Page 5." The storage unit receipt, paid by the applicant on 14 Jun 23, reflects an Admin Fee: \$25.00 and a fee for a storage unit of 10x25x8, for the dates of 12 Jun 23- 30 Jun 23, of \$145.67.

For more information, see the applicant's submission at Exhibit A, excerpt of his record at Exhibit B, and the advisory at Exhibit C.

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

The Joint Travel Regulations (JTR) Uniformed Service Members and DoD Civilian Employees :

Chapter 1: General Policy, 0101. Basic Travel Rules, 010202. Guiding Principle. The guiding principle behind the JTR is to travel responsibly. The word "responsibly" means that the traveler exercises the same care in incurring expenses for Government travel that a prudent person would exercise if traveling at personal expense.

010103. Traveler Responsibilities.

A. Financial Responsibility. Traveling responsibly includes using the least expensive transportation mode, parking facilities, public transportation, or rental vehicle. It also includes scheduling travel as early as possible to take advantage of discounted transportation rates. The traveler is financially responsible for excess costs, circuitous routes, delays, or luxury accommodations that are unnecessary or unjustified.

B. Items Not Mentioned. If something is not stated in the JTR, it does not mean that an allowance exists or may be authorized. The philosophy of "It doesn't say I can't; therefore, I can" does not apply to the JTR. Instead, if the JTR does not say something can be reimbursed, then it cannot be reimbursed as a travel claim.

0514. HHG Weight. 051401. Authorized PCS Weight Allowances. The authorized PCS weight allowance is normally determined by a Service member's pay grade on the effective date of the PCS order, and whether the Service member has dependents on the effective date of the PCS order.

Table 5-37. PCS and NTS Weight Allowances (Pounds).

Pay Grade: E7. With Dependents: 13,000. Without Dependents: 11,000.

0518 HHG Storage. SIT is included as part of HHG transportation unless specifically prohibited.

A. Storage in Transit (SIT). SIT may be authorized or approved at any DoD-approved storage facility at the origin, the destination, or any point in between. SIT cannot begin before the date the HHG is released to a transportation service provider or to the Government for transportation. The time limit is cumulative and may accrue at any combination of the origin, the destination, or any point in between. The Service member is financially responsible for SIT storage charges that accrue after the appropriate time limit expires if the HHG is not removed and additional time has not been authorized under this section. 1. A Service member on a PCS order is authorized 90 days of SIT for authorized HHGs, unless specifically prohibited by this section.

Defense Personal Property Program Domestic 400NG Tariff – 2024:

Item 17 – Storage-in-Transit.

3. A shipment or portion thereof may be placed in SIT one or more times for an aggregate period not to exceed 90 days unless the authorized Government representative authorizes additional storage.

13. Partial withdrawal (delivery) from SIT:

a. During SIT the shipper or customer may request withdrawal of a portion of the property. The customer must contact the PPSO and the PPSO will arrange with the TSP to schedule a partial delivery out of SIT so that all entitlements can be verified, and pre-approvals entered into DPS for labor, except as provided in the DTR Chapter 402. 4) TSP is responsible for obtaining actual weight of portion withdrawn

b. The following shall be applicable to the portion remaining in storage: 2) Storage charges shall continue to apply on the weight of remainder of the property.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

PPA HQ/LHO, recommends partially granting the request. The applicant is requesting full reimbursement for the duration of self-procured temporary storage for his personal property totaling 28,250 lbs, which is 15,520 lbs over his authorized entitlement of 13,000 lbs. In his statement (email submitted in his BCMR package), he acknowledges that after closing on his home on 28 Jun 23, he began removing property from the storage units on a daily/weekly basis. However, he did not obtain weight tickets after each removal and alleges he was never informed of that requirement. This is highly probable as normally an entire shipment is removed at one time; unless he advised the TMO of what he was doing, there was no way they would have known to advise him of the requirement to obtain a weight ticket upon each removal.

The PPM program is mirrored like a government arranged move in accordance with *Defense Travel Regulation Defense Personal Property Domestic Program 400NG Tariff*, Item 17, paragraph 13a, which states in part during SIT the shipper or customer may request withdrawal of a portion of the property, the transportation service provider is responsible for obtaining the actual

weight of the portion withdrawn and storage charges shall continue to apply to the weight of the remainder of the property.

JTR 0518 states in part that SIT is included as part of the HHG transportation unless specifically prohibited. PPM SIT must have prior approval from the Transportation Office (TO) before placing into storage. If additional storage is required for more than 90 days, written approval from the TO is required. Although based on research, it appears the applicant's SIT was not approved prior to the property being placed in storage, in good faith the *Work-Prod...* PPPO determined it was prudent for traffic management to reimburse the applicant for storage for one of the units. The one unit was determined adequate storage for the applicant's authorized weight entitlement.

Additionally, a 10x30x8 unit was determined for storage up to a 5-bedroom house equating to approximately 13,000 pounds of personal property, which is the applicant's authorized weight entitlement. A receipt provided by the applicant, dated 14 Jun 23, covering the storage period of 12 Jun 23 – 30 Jun 23, in the amount of \$170.67 (\$145.67 unit fee and \$25.00 admin fee) is the authorized actual expense allowable reimbursement. When the applicant began removing property from the storage facility, weight tickets of the weight removed were needed to continue SIT for the remaining weight and future reimbursement. SIT can not be reimbursed for weight that is no longer in storage.

Based on the documentation provided by the applicant and analysis of the facts, there is no evidence of an error or injustice. The documents are correct as prepared by the *Work-Prod...* AFB Personal Property Office and the applicant should be reimbursed in the amount of \$170.67.

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION

The Board sent a copy of the advisory opinion to the applicant on 20 May 24 for comment (Exhibit D), and the applicant replied on 28 May 24. In his response, the applicant contended on the first day he visited the TMO to inquire about storage, he explicitly asked about the paperwork required for reimbursement and he was provided with clear instructions to provide orders, original weight tickets and storage unit contracts/receipts. This inquiry also served as his means of attaining "pre-approval" for utilizing a storage unit and is evidence that he actively sought information of the reimbursement process and complied with instructions from TMO. Further, his situation was unique as it was not possible to remove his entire shipment from storage at once. Given he had a personal vehicle and trailer, it made logistical sense to conduct multiple removals at his own pace, rather than engaging another moving company. This approach was motivated by a desire to save costs, particularly considering he was informed that these expenses were reimbursable.

Additionally, it is important to clarify the adequacy of one storage unit for his authorized weight limit as storage units are size-restricted rather than weight restricted. Therefore, the determination should be based on size requirements rather than weight.

The applicant's complete response is at Exhibit E.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was timely filed.
2. The applicant exhausted all available non-judicial relief before applying to the Board.

3. After reviewing all Exhibits, the Board concludes the applicant is not the victim of an error or injustice. The Board concurs with the rationale and recommendation of PPA HQ/LLA and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not support the applicant's contentions. While the applicant contends, he should be reimbursed for temporary storage in-transit (SIT) costs associated with a personally procured move for 28,520 pounds of household goods (HHG). However, under the Joint Travel Regulation, the applicant was only authorized 13,000 pounds of HHGs with one storage unit for the applicant's authorized weight entitlement. Additionally, the applicant contends his inquiry to TMO in regard to storage served as his means of attaining "pre-approval," however, the Board finds the applicant has provided insufficient evidence his local Traffic Management Office pre-approved an additional HHG weight allowance above his JTR authorized HHG weight limit or additional SIT storage units. However, the Board finds the applicant should be reimbursed \$170.67 for storage, as well as the one-time administrative fee for the period of 15 Jun 23 – 30 Jun 23. However, for the remainder of the applicant's request, the evidence presented does not demonstrate an error or injustice and the Board finds no basis to recommend granting that portion of the applicant's request. Therefore, the Board recommends correcting the applicant's records as indicated below.

RECOMMENDATION

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT be corrected to show he be reimbursed \$170.67 (paperwork attached) for storage, as well as the one-time administrative fee.

However, regarding the remainder of the applicant's request, the Board recommends informing the applicant the evidence did not demonstrate material error or injustice, and the application will only be reconsidered upon receipt of relevant evidence not already considered by the Board.

CERTIFICATION

The following quorum of the Board, as defined in Department of the Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*, paragraph 2.1, considered Docket Number BC-2024-00784 in Executive Session on 10 Dec 24:

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Panel Chair

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Panel Member

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Panel Member

All members voted to correct the record. The panel considered the following:

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 27 Feb 24.

Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.

Exhibit C: Advisory opinion, PPA HQ/LHO, dated 17 May 24.

Exhibit D: Notification of advisory, SAF/MRBC to applicant, dated 20 May 24.

Exhibit E: Applicant's response, dated 28 May 24.

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Taken together with all Exhibits, this document constitutes the true and complete Record of Proceedings, as required by DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 4.12.9.

3/26/2025

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Signed by: Work-Product