

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 20 June 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240002086

APPLICANT REQUESTS: modification of his separation order date to allow for reimbursement of his Personally Procured Move (PPM) shipment of Household Goods (HHG) initiated on 18 November 2023 in the amount of \$2,325.97.

APPLICANT'S SUPPORTING DOCUMENT(S) CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD:

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- PODS Account Statement, dated 11 January 2024 showing he ordered the shipping container, and had it weighed on 11 December 2023, sent it for transportation on 12 December 2023, and had it delivered to the designated location on 19 December 2023, for a total balance of \$2,325.97
- Orders Number 016-2200, dated 16 January 2024 to be addressed in the service record below
- DD Form 2278 (Application for Personally Procured Move and Counseling Checklist), dated 18 January 2024 showing he requested authorization and coverage for a PPM from separation from service to move his HHG from [REDACTED], [REDACTED] showing a selected start date on 18 November 2023
- DD Form 1351-2 (Travel Voucher or Subvoucher), dated 19 January 2024 submitted as part of his required PPM packet
- PPM Checklist detailing the documents submitted for his PPM packet
- Weight Estimation Calculator listing the HHG items moved and approximate weight for his rank allowance
- Memorandum, Subject: Exception to Policy (ETP), Request for reimbursement of a PPM, dated 23 January 2024 wherein the Logistics Readiness Center, Installation Transportation Officer, requested reimbursement for the applicant's PPM based off logistical considerations for a completed PPM prior to receiving separation orders
- Email correspondence with the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, Chief, Military Travel and Transportation/JTR Branch wherein they denied his request for ETP based off his lack of authority to approve his HHG move prior to receiving orders and referral to the ABCMR for further assistance

FACTS:

1. The applicant states, in part:

- He requested separation orders through his S1 on 15 December 2023 and was not told he was missing a document until after he returned from block leave on 3 January 2024
- Due to the confusion, it was unclear as to when he was able to start his movement of HHG for his separation
- He ordered a 16-foot PODS to load his items from 18 November 2023 to 10 January 2024, completed the empty weight ticket on 18 November 2023, the full weight ticket on 11 December 2023, and was issued separation orders on 16 January 2024
- His plan was to load the PODS over a span of time, have it shipped on 11 December 2023 and meet it for arrival back home on 19 December 2023

2. A review of the applicant's available service record reflects the following:

- On 7 May 2016, he accepted a Reserve commission and executed an oath of office
- Orders Number 224-011, dated 11 August 2016 was issued ordering him to active duty for a period of 7 years, effective 27 January 2017
- Orders Number 016-2200, dated 16 January 2024 was issued for reassignment to the U.S. Army transition point for processing, honorable release from active duty, and reassignment to the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) Control Group (Reinforcement), effective 1 February 2024, (movement of HHG was authorized)
- DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), ending 1 February 2024 reflects an honorable release from active duty with transfer to the USAR Control Group (Reinforcement) with service from 25 January 2017 to 1 February 2024 for a net active service of 7 years and 7 days

3. On 23 September 2024, in the processing of this case, The Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, Financial Management Analyst, Travel and Transportation, provided an advisory opinion recommending disapproval of the applicant's request stating, in pertinent part:

a. The application for correction of military records regarding the applicant's request to receive an ETP for reimbursement of his PPM that was initiated on 18 November 2023 and completed on 10 January 2024 were reviewed by this office. It is recommended that the Board does not consider approval. There was no substantiating documentation submitted that indicates that this move was direct by the government or that there was any error or injustice to the service member.

b. On 16 November 2023, the applicant, on his own accord, decided to arrange transportation of his HHG to his Home of Record prior to the issuance of his separation orders dated 16 January 2024. This is in direct violation of the Joint Travel Regulation (JTR) Chapter 1 paragraph 010206. This move was conducted personal in nature and no evidence exists that this move was government directed.

4. On 26 November 2024, the applicant was provided with a copy of the advisory opinion and afforded an opportunity to respond. He did not respond.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was warranted. The Board carefully considered the applicant's record of service, documents submitted in support of the petition and executed a comprehensive and standard review based on law, policy and regulation. Upon review of the applicant's petition, available military records and the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff G-1- Financial Management advisory opinion, the Board considered the advising official recommendation for disapproval of the applicant's contentions indicating that the applicant's move was government-directed or that a material error or injustice occurred. The Board acknowledges the rationale behind this recommendation.

2. However, notwithstanding the advisory opinion, the Board found sufficient and compelling evidence within the applicant's record to support granting relief. Specifically: he applicant initiated a request for separation orders through his S-1 section on 15 December 2023. Prior to departing on block leave, the applicant took appropriate steps to ensure compliance with required processes. Evidence shows the applicant was not informed of any missing documentation or deficiencies in his request until after returning from block leave on 3 January 2024, at which point it was too late to adjust or cancel the PPM shipment. Furthermore, the Board found no indication that the applicant was provided timely guidance or notification that he lacked authorization to conduct a PPM of his HHG.

3. The Board determined that the applicant demonstrated due diligence and acted in good faith. The lack of clear communication or timely administrative guidance was beyond the applicant's control and constitutes an administrative shortcoming rather than any fault on the part of the applicant. As such, the Board granted relief in the form of reimbursement for the PPM of HHG initiated on 18 November 2023, in the amount of \$2,325.97 and modification of his orders.

BOARD VOTE:

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| █ | █ | █ | GRANT FULL RELIEF |
| : | : | : | GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF |
| : | : | : | GRANT FORMAL HEARING |
| : | : | : | DENY APPLICATION |

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant a recommendation for relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by amending Orders Number 016-2200 to show they were published on 15 November 2023 vice 16 January 2024 and reimbursement of his Personally Procured Move (PPM) shipment of Household Goods (HHG) initiated on 18 November 2023 in the amount of \$2,325.97.

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| CHAIRPERSON |

I certify that herein is recorded the true and complete record of the proceedings of the Army Board for Correction of Military Records in this case.

REFERENCE:

JTR:

a. Chapter 1, paragraph 010206 states, travel and transportation allowances are payable only after valid orders are issued. The order directs travel to, from, or between official points and serves as the basis for the trip and associated reimbursements. A travel authorization or order should be issued before travel begins. Travel or expenses incurred before a travel authorization or order is issued are not reimbursable, unless otherwise stated in the JTR. In unusual or urgent situations when travel must begin before a written authorization or order can be issued, a verbal authorization may be given. In such cases, the verbal authorization must be followed up in writing (called a "confirmatory order") before allowances are paid. A travel order may only contain authority for travel and transportation allowances provided within the JTR. If there is any conflict between a travel order and the JTR, the JTR prevails. Modifications after travel authorizations and orders cannot be retroactively modified to increase or decrease an allowance after the travel is completed. A travel authorization or order may be retroactively corrected to show the original intent. When an allowance is approved after travel begins, it does not constitute a retroactive modification to create, change, or deny an allowance. An amendment is effective on the date it is issued and is not retroactive unless it contains language that corrects an error or omission or provides a confirmation of the date of the verbal authorization.

b. A Service member on active duty who separates or is released from the Service, unless otherwise specified in this section, may be eligible for Permanent Change of Station travel and transportation allowances for his or herself and for a dependent. The Service member must have a break in service of at least 1 day and actually travel. A Service member is authorized travel from the last Permanent Duty Station (PDS) to his or her Home of Record (HOR) or Place Entered Active Duty (PLEAD). A dependent is authorized travel from the PDS or place where he or she was last transported at Government expense to the HOR or PLEAD, whichever the Service member selects. A different location may be selected or travel may be between other locations. However, reimbursement is limited to the amount that would have been paid if the Service member had traveled from the last PDS to the HOR or PLEAD.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//