



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE

SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR OF COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM
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INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LEGISLATIVE
AFFAIRS
ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC
AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR OF NET ASSESSMENT
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Delegation of Authority for Passenger, Cargo, and Patient Movement During the
COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

- References: (a) Title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.), section 2649 "Civilian Passengers and
Commercial Cargoes: Transportation On Department Of Defense Vessels,
Vehicles, And Aircraft"
(b) DoD Directive 4500.09, "Transportation and Traffic Management," December
27, 2019
(c) DoD Directive 4500.56, "DoD Policy on the Use of Government Aircraft and
Air Travel," May 11, 2010
(d) DoD Instruction 4515.13, "Air Transportation Eligibility," August 31, 2018
(e) Memorandum of Agreement between the U.S. Department of State (DOS)
and U.S. Department of Defense, "Protection and Evacuation of U.S.
Citizens and Nationals and Designated Other Persons From Threatened Areas
Overseas, 1998
(f) DoD Instruction 6000.11, "Patient Movement," June 22, 2018

The continuing spread of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has caused
significant disruption to commercial air transportation for both passenger and cargo movement.
As a result, the Department of Defense (DoD) has experienced a significant increase in the
number and scale of requests for airlift of patients, travelers and cargo from across the Federal
Government and non-U.S. Government (USG) organizations. Support to other agencies and



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non-USG organizations is subject to approved requirements under 31 U.S.C. § 1535 (the Economy Act).

In order to ensure timely action on patient movement and transportation requests, approval authorities are delegated as described below and in table 1 (attached):

- Patient Movement (uniformed service members, the expeditionary civilian workforce, contingency contractor personnel, and all other eligible DoD patients). Approval to transport contaminated, contagious, and potentially exposed patients is delegated to the Commander, U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) as described below. This delegation of authority is limited only to patients diagnosed with COVID-19 who are determined to require movement to a higher level of care or those presumed to have COVID-19 as determined by a health professional. This authority may be further delegated in writing only to a level no lower than the USTRANSCOM Deputy Commander. The movement of patients with COVID-19 should be limited. All efforts should be made to treat and manage at the nearest appropriate military or civilian medical facility. When a patient who is diagnosed with COVID-19 requires movement because they are Seriously Ill, Very Seriously Ill, or their care exceeds the capacity and capabilities of the sending location, the sending medical unit caring for the Service member should use established DoD, USTRANSCOM, and Geographic Combatant Command policies and procedures to request support from USTRANSCOM. When making a decision to transport patients, the Commander, USTRANSCOM should consider mission requirements, patient health, and the health and readiness of the crew and fleet. Vessels used for transport of infected COVID patients will be properly inspected and sanitized in order to ameliorate the risk of disease transmission.
- Non-DoD USG Personnel and Cargo – Space Available. Approval for movement of USG employees (including eligible family members returning from overseas) on a non-interference, space available basis is delegated to the Commander, USTRANSCOM for the extent of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Such travel will be reimbursable pursuant to the Economy Act. Approval for movement of USG cargo on a non-interference, space available basis is delegated to the Commander, USTRANSCOM for TRANSCOM controlled aircraft and the Commanders of the Geographic Combatant Commands for Geographic Combatant Command controlled aircraft.
- Non-DoD USG Personnel and Cargo – Reimbursable. Approval for movement of USG employees (including eligible family members returning from overseas) and cargo requiring the scheduling of dedicated aircraft or modified routing and on a reimbursable basis under the Economy Act is delegated to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment.
- Non-DoD USG Personnel and Cargo – Non-reimbursable. Approval for the movement of USG employees (including eligible family members returning from overseas) and cargo requiring scheduling of dedicated aircraft or modified routing and on a non-reimbursable basis is delegated to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment. The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy may request review of determinations by the Deputy Secretary of Defense. Approval for

non-reimbursable support shall be reserved for exceptional cases and may be given only after the requestor has demonstrated that reimbursement pursuant to the Economy Act is not possible or in the interest of DoD.

- **Non-USG Personnel and Cargo.** Authority to approve the movement of non-USG passengers (with the exception of American persons being repatriated from COVID-19 high risk countries, addressed below) is delegated to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment. The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy may request review of determinations by the Deputy Secretary of Defense. Authority for movement of non-humanitarian cargo is delegated to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment. Such requests must come from another Federal department or agency and such transportation will be reimbursable under the Economy Act. Approval for the movement of non-USG humanitarian cargo in support of another department or agency is delegated to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, and will be done only on a reimbursable basis under the Economy Act, or pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 2561.
- **Repatriation of American Persons (Citizens and Permanent Legal Residents).** Approval for the airlift of non-USG employee U.S. citizens and permanent legal residents who cannot return to the United States by commercial means or Department of State (DOS) managed travel as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic is delegated to Commander, USTRANSCOM. Transportation is authorized pursuant to the provisions outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Defense "Protection and Evacuation of U.S. Citizens and Nationals and Designated Other Persons From Threatened Areas Overseas, 1998." The MOA provides that evacuation-related costs are the responsibility of DOS. DOS must request and approve the movement of any passenger prior to airlift. Additionally, DOS must accept responsibility for screening passengers for admissibility to the destination country.

All passengers must undergo medical screening prior to boarding as a pre-condition for travel on all DoD coordinated, managed, or operated flights. Whenever possible, contracted commercial flights should be used as the first option.

Combatant Commanders are to provide a written record of all requests approved under these delegated authorities every 30 days through their staffs to the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Logistics. The expiration of this delegation will be August 1, 2020 but may be curtailed or extended as conditions dictate. The delegations of authority in this memorandum may not be further delegated unless redelegation of that specific authority is authorized in this memorandum.



Attachment:
As stated

Table 1 – Non-Medical Passengers and Cargo

Description	Restrictions	Authority	Notes	Approval Authority
USG Employees (including family member returning from overseas)	Space Available, Non-Interference at request of parent agency	31 USC, 1535 (Economy Act)	Such travel will be reimbursable pursuant to 31 USC, 1535 (the Economy Act).	Commander, USTRANSCOM
USG Employees (including family member returning from overseas)	Travel requiring scheduling of dedicated aircraft or modified routing	31 USC, 1535 (Economy Act)	Such travel will be reimbursable pursuant to 31 USC, 1535 (Economy Act).	Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment
USG Employees (including family member returning from overseas)	Travel requiring scheduling of dedicated aircraft or modified routing		When travel is requested on a non-reimbursable basis. Requires determination of authority and source of funding.	Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment
Non-USG passengers (with the exception of support to repatriation)	Movement must be requested by other federal agency	31 USC, 1535 (Economy Act) or 10 USC, 2561	Movement in support of international response. Reimbursement will be provided by requesting agency or non-reimbursable pursuant to 10 USC, 2561 for humanitarian reasons.	Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment
Non-USG U.S. citizens and permanent legal residents in support of repatriation / evacuation	Travel must be requested by DoS pursuant to existing agreements.	31 USC, 1535 (Economy Act) and DoS – DoD MOA	Evacuation costs are the responsibility of the DoS.	Commander, USTRANSCOM

Description	Restrictions	Authority	Notes	Approval Authority
USG cargo	Space Available, Non-Interference at request of parent agency	31 USC, 1535 (Economy Act)	Such movement will be reimbursable pursuant to 31 USC, 1535 (the Economy Act).	USTRANSCOM Commander for inter-theater, Geographic Combatant Commander for intra-theater movement
USG Cargo (humanitarian)	Movement requiring scheduling of dedicated aircraft or modified routing	31 USC, 1535 (Economy Act) or 10 USC, 2561	Such movement will be pursuant to 31 USC, 1535 (Economy Act) and reimbursable or 10 USC, 2561 and non-reimbursable.	Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment
Non-USG cargo (non-humanitarian)	Movement must be requested by other federal agency	31 USC, 1535 (Economy Act)	Movement in support of international response. Reimbursement will be provided by requesting agency.	Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment
Non-USG Cargo (humanitarian)	Movement requiring scheduling of dedicated aircraft or modified routing	31 USC, 1535 (Economy Act) or 10 USC, 2561	Movement in support of international response. Reimbursement will be provided by requesting agency or 10 USC, 2561.	Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment