

## USE OF GOVERNMENT VEHICLE

The use of government vehicles is regulated by DoD 4500.36R, Management, Acquisition, and Use of Motor Vehicles, 16 March 2007, and AR 58-1, Management, Acquisition, and Use of Motor Vehicles. **Government vehicles may be used for official purposes only.**

Travel to/from Airports. Non taction vehicle (NTV) use for travel to and from commercial and military airports is permitted only when (AR 58-1, paras. 2-3i(1)):

- Used by principal diplomatic officials or the Secretary of the Army or the Chief of Staff, Army.
- Required for emergencies (See AR 58-1, para. 2-3f for authorized use of a NTV during emergency leave to transport personnel to the airport quickly.) or for security.
- Terminals are located where other means of transportation are not available or cannot meet mission requirements.
- Justified by cost analysis (AR 235-5) and approved by the Secretary of the Army.
- Authorized in the National Capitol Region by DODI 4515.7.
- May be provided to personnel in receipt of valid TDY orders provided such factors as need, distance involved, duration of the mission, and other applicable conditions are considered to justify NTV use. However, TDY orders alone do not justify authorization of a NTV. AR 58-1, para. 2-3i(2).

Travel to/from Residences. Generally, NTVs will not be used for domicile-to-duty (D-T-D) travel, unless a very limited exception applies. AR 58-1, para. 2-4d. (See AR 58-1 at Chapter 4 for a list of narrow exceptions.) However, if an individual is on valid TDY orders and a NTV is authorized, a NTV may be permitted- and even overnight at the individual's residence. The basic consideration will be that the individual would have to travel a long distance to pick up the vehicle and then turn around and drive back in the same direction to proceed to the TDY site. AR 58-1, para. 4-3e. Additionally, the use of NTVs for travel to/from places of residence and airports is not permitted, absent a narrow exception detailed in AR 58-1, para. 4-6.

Travel to/from Restaurants. NTVs must not be used for transportation to or be parked at commissaries, post or base exchanges (including all concessions), bowling alleys, officer and NCO clubs, or non-appropriated fund activity unless personnel using the NTVs are on official business or TDY. AR 58-1, para. 2-4c. Even if service members are on official business, a stop at a fast food establishment is generally considered a personal errand or side trip for unofficial purposes, and therefore not authorized.

**IF YOU HAVE A PARTICULAR QUESTION ABOUT THE USE OF GOVERNMENT VEHICLES CONTACT OUR OFFICE.**

**ETHICAL FAILURES: (Case #1)** A military service Chief Master Sergeant abused her authority and improperly used a government vehicle when she employed a government vehicle and three non-commissioned officers under her supervision to move personal property in a government rental vehicle. The soldiers helped her for 3 hours. The Chief Master Sergeant was given a verbal warning and advised of the improper use of government vehicles and the abuse of authority. **(Case #2)** A military service officer used two government owned vehicles to move her belongings from one residence to another. The use of the vehicles, totaling over 250 miles, earned her a memorandum of reprimand from her commander for misuse of government vehicles. Another officer was issued a memorandum of counseling for improperly authorizing the use of the vehicles. **(Case #3)** A military service Colonel authorized a subordinate to use a military vehicle to pick him up at his residence and take him to work. He was counseled for improperly using Federal Government resources, including personnel and equipment, for a non-official purpose, in violation of JER 2-301, Use of Federal Government Resources. \$130 was collected from the Colonel to reimburse the government for the mileage cost incurred **(Case # 4)** A Non-Appropriated Fund Activity (NAFI) employee was reprimanded after it was discovered that he drove his official Government vehicle every morning to a NAFI eatery for coffee and breakfast. The employee readily admitted his actions, but indicated that he believed them to be proper because they were “official visits” to an activity under his command. He noted that he had formerly used his personal vehicle for all such visits, but with rising gas prices, that practice had become too expensive. He further hypothesized that the person who had tipped off investigators was simply jealous as they probably did not have a Government vehicle and were forced to drive their personal vehicle to get food.

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