CLAIMS ADVICE FOR VEHICLE STORAGE DURING DEPLOYMENT

Payment and Limitations:

The government will reimburse you for damage to your vehicle if the vehicle was stored at the government's expense. However, loss or damage that occurs while the property is being stored at the claimant's expense is not compensable. Before storing your vehicle, check your orders to ensure that it authorizes storage of your POV at the government's expense.

Army Claims policy is that motor vehicles stored during a deployment in a Government-designated or funded storage facility will be covered by the $20,000 per vehicle limit. A soldier may also be paid for POV damage if the soldier must contract with a private company to store the vehicle and the Army Transportation Office has agreed to reimburse the soldier for storage fees. Vehicles merely parked at assigned quarters in the United States will be only be covered up to the $3,000 per claim limit.

Soldiers may seek payment for scratches, dents, broken glass, stolen parts, or other damage due to fire, theft, vandalism, and damages due to unusual occurrences. Normal wear and tear resulting from your vehicle being stored is not considered an unusual occurrence and would not be compensable. Claimants have two years from the time they discover the loss to their vehicle to file a claim.

Recommendations for Storage:

1. Remove all personal property such as cellular telephones, uniforms, clothing, luggage, camping equipment, portable CD players, and other similar items. The loss of these items cannot be claimed under the PCS if they are stolen from your vehicle.
2. Retain all receipts, invoices or other records reflecting the purchase and installation of after-market accessories such as CD players. The records will help verify the value of the items if a theft occurs.
3. Take video or photographs of your vehicle from various angles to document its condition at the time it was placed into storage.
4. Do not cancel state mandated liability insurance on your vehicle. Army regulations require that all vehicles on the installation be properly registered and insured in accordance with local regulations.
5. Decide if you wish to extend comprehensive insurance coverage. Because some losses may not be payable under our regulations, soldiers are encouraged to maintain full coverage to protect themselves from all potential damage.
6. Clean your vehicle thoroughly before taking it in for storage.
7. Ensure a thorough inspection is performed when you submit your vehicle for storage. Be sure to note minor scratches and dings as well as larger dents and cracks. Keep a copy of the inspection form for your own records.

8. Make sure an inventory is prepared for your POV documenting small service connected items such as spare tires, jacks, first aid kits, jumper cables etc.
9. When picking up your vehicle, conduct another thorough inspection. Open the trunk and all doors and inspect for additional damage not noted on the previous inspection form.

Information contained in this paper is general in nature and does not constitute legal advice. If you have any questions regarding a specific situation please contact the Fort Sam Houston Claims Office in Building 153 or at 221-1973.