



UNITED STATES
CIVILIAN BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS

July 18, 2013

CBCA 3032-TRAV

In the Matter of JOHN W. WHITEHOUSE

John W. Whitehouse, FPO Area Pacific, Claimant.

Capt. P. J. Foster, Deputy Commander Singapore Area Coordinator, Department of the Navy, FPO Area Pacific, appearing for Department of the Navy.

DRUMMOND, Board Judge.

John W. Whitehouse is an employee of the Department of the Navy (Navy) and is permanently stationed in Singapore. In 2011, the Navy authorized Mr. Whitehouse to travel to Washington, D.C., on official business. Mr. Whitehouse began his travel on April 9, 2011.

On his return trip, he combined personal and official travel, going through Phoenix, Arizona, and Seattle, Washington, before returning to Singapore using government rate airfares. The total cost of his round-trip travel was \$3302.43.

Mr. Whitehouse submitted a travel voucher seeking, *inter alia*, \$3302.43 for his airfare and \$12.95 for hotel internet access charges. With regard to the airfare, because Mr. Whitehouse's trip included multiple unofficial locations, the Navy asked the Central Travel Office (CTO) to determine the cost of his official roundtrip travel between Singapore and Washington, D.C. The Navy, based on information provided by the CTO, approved only \$2125.70 for his round-trip airfare. With regard to the internet access charges, Mr. Whitehouse asserts that on his last night in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, he saved the Navy \$50 per night by moving from a more expensive hotel with free internet connectivity to a less expensive hotel which charged him \$12.95 for internet connectivity. The Navy denied the hotel internet connectivity claim.

On appeal, the Navy acknowledged that airfare information provided by the CTO in 2011 was incorrect. The Navy further acknowledged that due to the passage of time it cannot determine the lowest price unrestricted fare during the dates of travel or if such a ticket was available. It states that the only fare available for computing constructive travel is the General Services Administration City Pair unrestricted coach class contract fares rate of \$1980 for one-way travel from Singapore to Washington, D.C., or \$3960 for round trip. The Navy represents that the difference between what Mr. Whitehouse was paid and what he is seeking is \$1176.73. The Navy agrees that Mr. Whitehouse is entitled to the claimed balance. Accordingly, we find that Mr. Whitehouse is entitled to an additional \$1176.73 for his airfare costs. *See* JTR C2165-B; *Michael Strand*, CBCA 1609-TRAV, 10-1 BCA ¶ 34,393; *Robert O. Jacob*, CBCA 471-TRAV, 07-1 BCA ¶ 33,530.

The Navy maintains that Mr. Whitehouse is not entitled to the claimed internet costs. Appendix G of the Joint Travel Regulations provides: “Computer Connections. Connections (e.g., Internet connection) used for computers to perform official [Government] business is reimbursable when authorized/approved by the AO.” There is no dispute that Mr. Whitehouse’s travel orders did not authorize reimbursement of internet connectivity charges. His command continues to believe that internet access was not necessary to his conduct of official business. Accordingly, this claim is denied.

JEROME DRUMMOND
Board Judge