



UNITED STATES  
CIVILIAN BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS

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June 20, 2014

CBCA 3689-RELO

In the Matter of ROBERT D. TRACY

Robert D. Tracy, Virginia Beach, VA, Claimant.

Alma Grinston, Deputy Chief, West Travel Team, Department of the Navy, Arnold, MO, appearing for Department of the Navy.

**STERN**, Board Judge.

Claimant, a civilian employee of the United States Navy (Navy), was transferred by the Navy from one duty location to another. His orders authorized temporary quarters subsistence expenses (TQSE) for sixty days and house hunting expenses (HHT) for ten days.

Claimant actually used and was paid for eight days of house hunting. Subsequently, claimant incurred TQSE expenses for a period of fifty-two days. The Navy subtracted the eight days that it paid for HHT from claimant's first thirty days of TQSE and reimbursed claimant for twenty-two days of TQSE for the first thirty-day period authorized. The Navy then reimbursed claimant for the remaining twenty-two days of the TQSE used by claimant. Thus, claimant was paid eight days of HHT plus forty-four days of TQSE. Claimant argues that the eight days of HHT should be subtracted from the authorized sixty days of TQSE and that he should be paid for fifty-two days of TQSE in addition to the eight days of HHT.

The Joint Travel Regulations (JTR), applicable to this situation, provide, "If an employee is paid/reimbursed for HHT days and authorized TQSE is subsequently claimed for more than 30 days, the actual number of HHT days (NTE [not to exceed] 10) paid/reimbursed . . . are deducted from the first authorized TQSE period." JTR C5634-A.

We previously confronted a similar situation in *Melinda Slaughter*, CBCA 754-RELO, 07-2 BCA ¶ 33,633. There, the agency authorized sixty days of TQSE, in addition to HHT. We concluded that where the agency paid for ten days of HHT, the claimant was authorized to be reimbursed of up to fifty days of TQSE.

Similarly, here, claimant was paid for eight days of HHT, and therefore could be reimbursed for up to fifty-two days of TQSE, in addition to the HHT payment. The method used by the Navy, limiting the payment to forty-four days of TQSE, was incorrect.

### Decision

Claimant is entitled to be reimbursed for eight days of HHT plus fifty-two days of TQSE.

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JAMES L. STERN  
Board Judge