



UNITED STATES
CIVILIAN BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS

September 29, 2016

CBCA 4960-RELO

In the Matter of MIGUEL E. LÓPEZ

Miguel E. López, Miami, FL, Claimant.

Jacqueline D. Thompson, Human Resources Officer, United States Naval Station Rota Spain, FPO Area Europe, appearing for Department of the Navy.

DANIELS, Board Judge (Chairman).

On July 29, 2016, we denied a claim by Miguel E. López for a temporary quarters subsistence allowance (TQSA) for expenses allegedly paid for meals and incidentals during the last month before the claimant was transferred from his duty station in Rota, Spain. *Miguel E. López*, CBCA 4960-RELO, et al., 16-1 BCA ¶ 36,448. We explained that reimbursement for subsistence costs through a TQSA “is for actual expenses, not estimates of possible expenses,” and concluded that the amounts Mr. López sought were “clearly estimates, not actual expenses, and therefore are not appropriate for reimbursement.” We consequently denied the claim.

Mr. López has asked us to reconsider this decision. We asked the agency on several occasions to respond to the request, but have received no reply. To rule in a timely way on the claimant’s request, we proceed to review the request without considering the agency’s position.

In our decision, we noted that Mr. López’s voucher was for the period from June 1 to 30, 2015, but the voucher was submitted on June 7, before most of the period had transpired. We also noted that the voucher sought reimbursement for the costs of lodging, as well as meals, and that the actual cost of the lodging was twenty-one percent less than the amount claimed. Both of these facts supported our conclusion that the amounts sought for

meals and incidental expenses were estimates, not actual expenses, and therefore not appropriate for reimbursement.

In his request for reconsideration, Mr. López says that he “may have put the wrong date on the form” and that the hotel charges were reduced because he deleted parking fees and initially made calculation errors in converting euros into dollars. Even if these assertions are true, they would not affect our conclusion that the amounts sought for meals and incidental expenses were estimates. This is because the assertions do not affect a very important fact we noted in our decision as supporting the conclusion: the claim is bereft of any sort of documentation. Mr. López says that he purchased all his meals with cash, but he kept no records which the agency or the Board might examine to validate that the payments were actually made.

The request for reconsideration is denied.

STEPHEN M. DANIELS
Board Judge