



UNITED STATES  
CIVILIAN BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS

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August 28, 2024

CBCA 8107-TRAV

In the Matter of NELSON R.

Nelson R., Claimant.

Adam R. Shaw, Assistant Counsel, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Corona Division, Naval Sea Systems Command, Norco, CA, appearing for Department of the Navy.

**SHERIDAN**, Board Judge.

Claimant, who elected to drive his privately-owned vehicle (POV) to the airport terminal and park it there for several days while he was on temporary duty (TDY), is only entitled to recover the cost of a round-trip taxi or travel network company (TNC or rideshare) fare.

Background

At all relevant times, claimant was a civilian employee of the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Corona Division (NSWC Corona or agency). On March 6, 2024, claimant submitted his travel authorization for temporary duty (TDY) travel to the United Kingdom from Los Angeles, California. On claimant's travel authorization, he entered \$250 for "Parking – At the terminal" as one of his reimbursable expenses. Claimant was authorized to drive his POV to the airport terminal.

On April 19, 2024, claimant parked at Joe's Airport Parking near Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). Sixteen days later, on May 5, 2024, claimant returned from TDY and retrieved his POV, incurring a parking fee of \$250.56.

On May 15, 2024, claimant submitted his travel voucher to be reimbursed for his travel expenses, including the \$250.56 parking expense. An agent in the Travel Services

office at NSWC Corona made changes to claimant's travel voucher on May 16, 2024. Specifically, the agent reduced claimant's parking expense claim from \$250.56 to \$122, based on the taxi fare calculation for a round-trip taxi from his home to the airport terminal. Claimant spoke with the agent about his reimbursement amount for airport parking expenses. The agent explained the regulations applicable to this matter and showed claimant the round-trip calculation on [www.taxifarefinder.com](http://www.taxifarefinder.com). Claimant filed this claim with the Board, seeking the difference between the amount reimbursed by the agency and the amount incurred.

### Discussion

The agency argues that it properly reimbursed claimant for his airport parking expenses in accordance with the Joint Travel Regulations (JTR). As a civilian employee in the Department of Defense (DoD), claimant is subject to the provisions of both the Federal Travel Regulation (FTR) and the JTR. *See Ira E.*, CBCA 6881-RELO, 21-1 BCA ¶ 37,855, at 183,824; *Jimmy D. Graves*, CBCA 963-TRAV, 08-1 BCA ¶ 33,805, at 167,343.

The FTR and JTR make clear that reimbursement of parking expenses for a POV parked at an airport terminal while on TDY cannot exceed the cost of a round-trip taxi or similar rideshare service to and from the terminal. For parking a POV at the airport, the FTR provides:

**What will I be reimbursed if I park my POV at a common carrier terminal while I am away from my official station?**

Your agency may reimburse your parking fee as an allowable transportation expense not to exceed the cost of one of the following to/from the terminal as determined by your agency:

- (a) The cost of a taxi.
- (b) The cost of a TNC fare.
- (c) The cost of using an innovative mobility technology company.

41 CFR 301-10.308 (2023). The JTR has a similar provision, which provides that if “a traveler parks at a terminal, he or she may be reimbursed actual expense up to the cost of two one-way taxi fares or TNC fares.” JTR 020213-B tbl. 2-13(5) (Apr. 2024).

Here, claimant was authorized to use his POV to travel to and from the terminal for his scheduled TDY. After he returned, claimant submitted a travel voucher claiming the \$250.56 airport parking fee as a reimbursable expense. Citing the JTR, the agency limited the reimbursement to \$122, based on the calculation of a round-trip taxi or rideshare fare,

including tip, to and from LAX. Claimant has not disputed the \$122 calculation for a round-trip fare, only that he should be allowed a full reimbursement.

The claimant has three main arguments, none of which can overturn the limitations in the FTR and JTR. First, claimant argues that he could not use a taxi or other service to take him to the airport. Claimant states that he relies on street parking by his residence, and if he left his POV while on TDY, he would have received parking tickets and/or been towed. Even if claimant was unable to use a taxi or rideshare service, it does not make the limitation inapplicable. *Todd R.*, CBCA 8021-TRAV, 24-1 BCA ¶ 38,577, at 187,497 (finding that the FTR's limitation on reimbursement for airport parking still applies even if claimant is unable to use a rideshare service). The FTR and JTR do not require the use of a taxi or rideshare service; they only limit the reimbursement for airport parking based on those rates. Therefore, even if claimant could not use a taxi or rideshare service, the limitation still applies.

Second, claimant appears to argue that section 020210-H of the JTR should apply. However, that section only allows for reimbursement of such miscellaneous expenses as parking fees when a traveler's use of a POV for TDY is "more advantageous to the Government." It is inapplicable to the current situation because claimant did not use his POV to travel to his TDY location, the United Kingdom. Additionally, claimant does not contend that the use of his POV was more advantageous to the Government.

Finally, claimant seems to suggest that the estimated total for parking, \$250, was approved on his travel authorization, and therefore he should be reimbursed for the full amount. Although an authorization should only contain expenses allowed by the JTR, any conflict between a travel authorization or order and the JTR will be resolved by the JTR. JTR 010206. Even when travelers receive advice contrary to regulation, they cannot be reimbursed for parking fees at an airport in excess of the round-trip taxi or rideshare fare to and from the terminal. *Paul F. Anderson*, CBCA 3639-TRAV, et al., 14-1 BCA ¶ 35,732, at 174,901 (citing *Johnnie P. Saunders, Jr.*, GSBCEA 16791-TRAV, 06-1 BCA ¶ 33,223, at 164,641). "The regulatory limitation on the reimbursement for parking a traveler's vehicle at an airport is mandatory and may not be waived by the agency." *Id.* (citing *Daniel McLoughlin*, CBCA 1924-TRAV, 10-1 BCA ¶ 34,426, at 169,932). Therefore, even if claimant received improper advice or had the \$250 approved on his travel orders, reimbursement is still limited to the round-trip cost of a taxi or rideshare service between his home and the terminal.

None of the claimant's arguments is sufficient to overturn the limitation for reimbursement of airport parking expenses in the JTR. Ultimately, travelers are responsible for excess costs while on TDY. JTR 010103-A; *Michael A. Lopez*, CBCA 6170-TRAV, 18-1 BCA ¶ 37,108, at 180,617. The partial reimbursement of \$122 for claimant's airport

parking expenses was made pursuant to the FTR and JTR, and claimant is responsible for the remaining balance. The claim is denied.

*Patricia J. Sheridan*

PATRICIA J. SHERIDAN

Board Judge