



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

MAR 18 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP  
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS  
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Delegation of Authority for Passenger, Cargo, and Patient Movement During the Novel Coronavirus 2019 Public Health Emergency

- References: (a) Title 10, U.S.C., section 2649, "Civilian Passengers and Commercial Cargoes: Transportation On Department Of Defense Vessels, Vehicles, And Aircraft"  
(b) DoD Directive 4500.09, "Transportation and Traffic Management," December 27, 2019  
(c) DoD Directive 4500.56, "DoD Policy on the Use of Government Aircraft and Air Travel," May 11, 2010  
(d) DoD Instruction 4515.13, "Air Transportation Eligibility," August 31, 2018  
(e) Memorandum of Agreement between U.S. Department of State (DOS) and U.S. Department of Defense, "Protection and Evacuation of U.S. Citizens and Nationals and Designated Other Persons From Threatened Areas Overseas," 1998  
(f) DoD Instruction 6000.11, "Patient Movement," June 22, 2018  
(g) DoD Instruction 6010.22, "National Disaster Medical System," April 4, 2016  
(h) Under Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Force Health Protection Guidance for the Novel Coronavirus Outbreak," dated January 30, 2020, as supplemented  
(i) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Delegation of Authority for Passenger, Cargo, and Patient Movement During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency," April 2, 2020 (CANCELLED)  
(j) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Supplement and Clarification to Delegation of Authority for Passenger, Cargo, and Patient Movement," May 26, 2020 (CANCELLED)  
(k) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Extension of Delegation of Authority for Passenger, Cargo, and Patient Movement During the Coronavirus 2019 Public Health Emergency," July 31, 2020 (CANCELLED)  
(l) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Further Delegation of Authority for Coronavirus Disease 2019 Patient Movement," December 11, 2020 (CANCELLED)

This memorandum cancels references (i), (j), (k), and (l) and issues a new delegation of authority for passenger, cargo, and patient movement during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency. These delegations will remain in place for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic or until I determine the delegations are no longer required. COVID-19 continues to be a significant threat to our Nation. Therefore, it is in the direct interest of DoD at all command echelons to support COVID-19 relief efforts and requests across the whole-of-Government.

DoD has experienced a significant number and scale of requests for airlift of patients, passengers, and cargo from Federal agencies and departments and non-U.S. government



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organizations. Support to other Federal agencies and departments is subject to approved requirements under title 31, U.S.C., section 1535 (the Economy Act). Support to non-U.S. government organizations is provided on a reimbursable basis as appropriate.

The delegations in this memorandum are applicable to operations that have a direct nexus to DoD COVID-19 response efforts. The delegations only apply to authorities otherwise retained by the Secretary of Defense, Deputy Secretary of Defense, and the DoD Executive Secretary as prescribed in reference (d), section 12, table 4, Item 1.

To expedite operational level decision-making, all other pre-existing authorities and approval levels, as prescribed in applicable DoD issuances remain in effect. Furthermore, pre-existing authorities and agreements (e.g., Acquisitions and Cross Servicing Agreements, Memoranda of Agreement or Understanding) remain in effect. Such agreements and authorities will be used, when appropriate, in support of both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 related activities and requests for assistance. Where applicable in reference (d), table 4, support of COVID-19 related requests deemed necessary to execute the responsibilities of the approving DoD Component or Combatant Commander concerned and in the interest of the DoD remain valid.

To ensure timely action on patient movement and transportation requests, approval authorities are delegated as described below and in Table 1 (attached):

#### **PATIENT MOVEMENT**

- The delegations in this section apply to the movement of specified patient movement categories (i.e. Service members, the expeditionary civilian workforce, contingency contractor personnel, and all other eligible DoD patients). These categories are defined in references (d) and (f). Eligible DoD patients may include allied personnel for whom DoD has assumed responsibility according to an international agreement or understanding; patients with Secretarial designee status; and patients requiring movement in the National Disaster Medical System, as determined by the Commander, U.S. Northern Command, or the Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, in coordination with the Commander, U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM).
- When making decisions to transport patients, commanders at all levels should consider mission requirements, patient health, and the health and readiness of the crew and fleet. Vessels that are used for the transport of infected COVID-19 patients will be thoroughly inspected and sanitized to reduce the risk of disease transmission.
- The authority to approve the transport of patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 and patients presumed to have COVID-19, as determined by a healthcare professional, is delegated to the Commander, USTRANSCOM. This delegation of authority is limited only to patients diagnosed with COVID-19 or those presumed to have COVID-19 as determined by a health professional and who require movement to a higher level of care. This delegation of authority applies to validated patient

movement within the DoD Global Patient Movement system, regardless of area of responsibility or aircraft assignment or allocation. This authority may be further delegated in writing to a level no lower than any General or Flag officer in the USTRANSCOM chain of command.

- The authority to approve COVID-19 patient movement at the tactical level (e.g., casualty evacuation/medical evacuation on aircraft assigned, allocated, or under contract to a Geographic Combatant Command (GCC) or the U.S. Special Operations Command, as well as the patient movement by surface means) is delegated to any General or Flag Officer in the responsible Combatant Command chain of command for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Commander, USTRANSCOM retains the authority to approve patient movement in the DoD Global Patient Movement system.
- COVID-19 patient movement should be limited because the risk of infecting personnel executing the move is high. All efforts should be made to treat the patient and manage patient care at the nearest appropriate military or civilian medical facility. The definition of patients “presumed to have COVID-19 as determined by a health professional” includes in its scope “asymptomatic persons who have not been tested but who have been exposed to COVID-19 and may still be contagious, as determined by a health professional.”
- Combatant Commanders should use the COVID-19 patient movement guidance, to include Force Health Protection Supplements, Patient Movement Plans, existing agreements, and patient validation processes to the maximum extent possible. The movement of highly contagious patients requires special measures to ensure both patient safety and the prevention of virus spread to the medical staff and aircrew. These measures include the appropriate isolation equipment; medical personnel (advanced airway management expertise must be considered); personal protective equipment; tactics, techniques, and procedures; and specialized training.

## **PASSENGERS AND CARGO**

- Non-DoD U.S. Government Personnel and Cargo - Space Available. Approval for movement of U.S. Government civilian employees (including eligible family members) between the United States and overseas, on a non-interference, space-available basis is delegated to the Commander, USTRANSCOM for the duration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Such travel will be reimbursable pursuant to the Economy Act, title 31 U.S.C., section 1535, by the requesting agency. Approval for movement of non-DoD U.S. Government cargo on a non-interference, space-available basis is delegated to the Commander, USTRANSCOM for USTRANSCOM controlled aircraft, and the Commanders of the GCCs for GCC controlled aircraft. Such transportation will be reimbursable pursuant to the Economy Act, title 31, U.S.C., section 1535, by the requesting agency.

- Non-DoD U.S. Government Personnel and Cargo – Reimbursable support on Dedicated Aircraft or Modified Routing. Approval for movement of U.S. Government employees (including eligible family members) between the United States and overseas and cargo requiring the scheduling of dedicated aircraft or modified routing, on a reimbursable basis under the Economy Act, title 31, U.S.C., section 1535, is delegated to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (USD(A&S)).
- Non-DoD U.S. Government Personnel and Cargo - Non-reimbursable support on Dedicated Aircraft or Modified Routing. Approval for the movement of U.S. Government civilian employees (including eligible family members) between the United States and overseas and cargo requiring scheduling of dedicated aircraft or modified routing, on a non-reimbursable basis, is delegated to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment. The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy may request a review of USD(A&S) determinations for non-reimbursable transportation by the Deputy Secretary of Defense. Approval for non-reimbursable support shall be reserved for exceptional cases and may be given only after the requestor has demonstrated that reimbursement pursuant to the Economy Act, title 31, U.S.C., section 1535, is not possible and the appropriate official within DoD has determined that the cost of the air transportation is an emergency or an extraordinary expense of DoD (title 10, U.S.C., section 127).
- Non-U.S. Government Personnel and Cargo. Authority to approve the movement of non-U.S. Government passengers (with the exception of U.S. persons who are being repatriated from COVID-19 high-risk countries, addressed below) is delegated to the USD(A&S). The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy may request a review of USD(A&S) determinations by the Deputy Secretary of Defense. Authority for movement of non-humanitarian non-U.S. Government cargo is delegated to the USD(A&S). Such requests must come from another Federal department or agency and such transportation will be reimbursed under the Economy Act, title 31, U.S.C., 1535. Approval for the movement of non-U.S. Government humanitarian cargo in support of another Federal department or agency is delegated to the USD(A&S) and will be done only on a reimbursable basis under the Economy Act, title 31, U.S.C., section 1535 or in support of a humanitarian mission as designated by the appropriate DoD official on a non-reimbursable basis pursuant to title 10, U.S.C., section 2561.
- Repatriation of U.S. Persons (Citizens and Permanent Legal Residents) and designated other persons. Approval for the airlift of non-U.S. Government employee U.S. citizens and permanent legal residents, and other persons who cannot return to the United States by commercial means or DOS-managed travel as a result of COVID-19 and who have been designated by the Department of State (DOS) is delegated to Commander, USTRANSCOM. Transportation is authorized pursuant to the provisions prescribed in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between The DOS and DoD “*Protection and Evacuation of U.S. Citizens and Nationals and Designated Other Persons From Threatened Areas Overseas, 1998.*” The MOA provides that evacuation-related costs are DOS’s

responsibility and transportation will occur on a reimbursable basis only pursuant to title 31, U.S.C., section 1535, (the Economy Act). The DOS must request and approve the movement of any passenger before airlift support is provided. Additionally, DOS must accept responsibility for screening passengers for admissibility to the destination country.

All passengers must comply with the applicable force health protection guidance in reference (h). Whenever possible, contracted commercial flights should be used as the first option.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. J. [unclear]". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Attachment:  
As stated

**Table 1 – Passengers and Cargo**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Restrictions</b>	<b>Authority</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Approval Authority</b>
Non-DoD, U.S. Government employees (including family members between overseas and the United States)	Space Available, Non-Interference at the request of parent agency	31 U.S.C. § 1535 (the Economy Act)	Such travel will be reimbursable pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 1535 (the Economy Act)	Commander, USTRANSCOM for USTRANSCOM controlled aircraft and Commanders of the GCCs for GCC controlled aircraft
Non-DoD, U.S. Government employees (including family members between overseas and the United States)	Travel requiring scheduling of dedicated aircraft or modified routing	31 U.S.C. § 1535 (the Economy Act)	Such travel will be reimbursable pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 1535 (the Economy Act)	Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment
Non-DoD, U.S. Government employees (including family members between overseas and the United States)	Travel requiring scheduling of dedicated aircraft or modified routing	10 U.S.C. § 127	Travel requested on a non-reimbursable basis. The requestor must show reimbursement is not possible under the Economy Act, and the appropriate official within DoD determines the cost of air transportation is an emergency or extraordinary expense of the DoD	Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment
Non-U.S. Government passengers returning from overseas to the United States (with the exception of repatriation support)	Travel must be requested by another federal agency	31 U.S.C. § 1535 (the Economy Act) or 10 U.S.C. § 2561	Movement in support of international response. Reimbursement will be provided by requesting agency or non-reimbursement pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 2561 for humanitarian reasons.	Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment
Non-U.S. Government U.S. Persons, (citizens & permanent legal residents) and designated other persons in support of repatriation or evacuation returning from overseas to the United States	Travel must be requested by the DOS pursuant to DoD-DOS MOA/existing agreements.	31 U.S.C. § 1535 (the Economy Act)	Movement is reimbursable by DOS pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 1535 (the Economy Act), evacuation costs are the responsibility of the DOS.	Commander, USTRANSCOM

<b>Description</b>	<b>Restrictions</b>	<b>Authority</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Approval Authority</b>
Non-DoD U.S. Government Cargo between the US and overseas	Space Available, Non-Interference at the request of parent agency	31 U.S.C. §1535 (the Economy Act)	Such movement will be reimbursable pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 1535 (the Economy Act)	Commander, USTRANSCOM for USTRANSCOM controlled aircraft; GCC for GCC-controlled aircraft
Non-DoD U.S. Government Cargo between the United States and overseas	Movement requiring scheduling of dedicated aircraft or modified routing	31 U.S.C. § 1535 (the Economy Act) or 10 U.S.C. § 2561	Such movement will be pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 1535 (the Economy Act) and reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 2561 for humanitarian reasons	Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment
Non-DoD U.S. Government Cargo between United States and overseas (humanitarian)	Travel requiring scheduling of dedicated aircraft or modified routing	Appropriate official within DoD has determined that the cost of the air transportation is an emergency or an extraordinary expense of DoD (10 U.S.C. § 127)	Requested non-reimbursable basis. The requestor must show reimbursement not possible under 31 U.S.C. § 1535, (the Economy Act) or a determination is made that it is in DoD's best interest.	Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment
Non-U.S. Government Cargo (non-humanitarian)	Movement must be requested by another federal agency	31 U.S.C. § 1535 (the Economy Act)	Movement in support of international response. Reimbursement will be provided by requesting agency under 31 U.S.C. § 1535 (the Economy Act)	Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment
Non-U.S. Government Cargo (humanitarian)	Movement requiring scheduling of dedicated aircraft or modified routing	31 U.S.C. § 1535 (the Economy Act) or 10 U.S.C. § 2561	Movement in support of international response. Reimbursement will be provided by requesting agency under 31 U.S.C. § 1535 (the Economy Act) or on a non-reimbursable basis pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 2561 for humanitarian reasons.	Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment