

FACT SHEET

SUBJECT: Family Members Use of Official Air Transportation

1. PURPOSE. To provide guidance on family member authority to accompany military sponsors on official air transportation.

2. FACTS.

a. Spouses are authorized to accompany their military sponsor on military aircraft and on commercial aircraft at government expense only when there is an unquestionable official requirement for the travel of the spouse and:

(1) The spouse is actually to participate in the official function that requires the travel, or

(2) It is deemed in the national interest as desirable because of diplomatic or public relations benefit to the United States.

b. A detailed written justification must be prepared and retained in each case where accompanying spouse travel is authorized.

(1) Accompanying spouse travel is normally not authorized for:

(A) Touring facilities.

(B) Attending change of command ceremonies.

(C) Attending a meeting or conference unless the spouse actually confers with DoD officials on matters of interest to DoD.

(2) With limited exceptions (e.g., PCS, overseas space available travel, etc.) to qualify as official business, the nonmember spouse must actually participate in the official function requiring travel.

c. For other than the spouse of four star commanders, the Army Chief of Staff or Director of the Army Staff must approve spousal travel on military aircraft at government expense.

3. POC is the Administrative Law Division at 4-7414/4668.

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