



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY EUROPE
UNIT 29351
APO AE 09014-9351

AEPE-M

28 August 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR

HQ USAREUR and IMCOM-Europe Staff Principals
Commanders of USAREUR Major Subordinate Commands and Commands Under
USAREUR Operational Control
Commanders of United States Army Garrisons

SUBJECT: Exceptions to Policy on Using Patriot Express (AE Cmd Memo 2018-037)

This memorandum expires in 2 years.

1. References:

- a. DTR 4500.9-R, part I, Passenger Movement, chapter 103, Air Movement.
- b. MILPER Message 11-394, Special Instructions for Soldiers on Assignment Instructions to United States Army Europe (USAREUR) Units in Germany and Italy.

2. Applicability. This policy applies to all U.S. military personnel and their Family members, as applicable, authorized official travel to Germany pursuant to military orders.

3. Policy. This memorandum provides guidance to leaders in the rank of colonel (O6) or equivalent regarding exemptions for Soldiers and their Family members from using Patriot Express (PE) when arriving at or departing from USAREUR units in Germany. Reference 1a provides general guidance concerning approvals of exceptions to policy (ETPs). This memorandum provides more detailed guidance and sample justifications for the use of commercial air transportation instead of PE. Although this memorandum does not contain an all-inclusive list of justifications for granting ETPs, it provides leaders with a flexible framework to approve the use of commercial air transportation instead of PE when appropriate. PE should be used to the maximum extent possible.

4. Exceptions.

- a. The first colonel (O6) or equivalent in the traveler's gaining or losing chain of command may approve an ETP exempting the traveler from using PE (c below). The approval authority will review the following conditions:

- (1) Traveler availability dates.
 - (2) Traveler reporting date.
 - (3) Seating availability on PE.
 - (4) Length of journey (for example, multiple stops, extended layovers).
 - (5) Routing implications of using commercial air transportation rather than Government airlift.
 - (6) The traveler's rank and experience in regard to understanding force-protection requirements and international travel.
- b. Travelers with an approved ETP should not incur significant delays in onward movement from the airport to their new duty stations if proactive sponsorship takes place. Commanders are reminded that the use of nontactical vehicles is authorized for picking up inbound Soldiers and their Families during the execution of Government-directed, permanent change of station (PCS) moves.
- c. ETPs should be made on a case-by-case basis. If PE does not meet mission requirements, the traveler will provide an ETP request in memorandum format to the transportation office and commercial travel will be arranged. Situations or events that could warrant ETP approval may include, but are not limited to, the following:
- (1) Academic enrollment or completion for school-age dependents.
 - (2) Projected deployment of the gaining unit.
 - (3) Participation in a change of command or assumption of command.
 - (4) Assuming a key billet or primary staff position.
 - (5) Executing a PCS move from another OCONUS location.
 - (6) The Soldier, his or her Family members, or a pet cannot be accommodated on the same PE flight. Travelers should be informed that they will incur nonrefundable costs for pet travel on commercial carriers.

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(7) Travel will be through Baltimore-Washington International Airport and will require an overnight stay, or other delays are expected before obtaining a PE flight to Europe.

(8) A Family member is enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program and travel on PE will make traveling even more difficult.

d. As a general rule, Soldiers and Family members en route to their first duty station who have just completed Initial Entry Training should not be granted an ETP for PE. The use of PE ensures that Soldiers and their Family members, as applicable, receive the force protection and reception benefits best suited to acclimate them to the European theater.

e. All Soldiers who are granted an ETP to fly with a commercial airline must travel in civilian clothes.

5. Review. The USAREUR G1 is responsible for reviewing and updating this memorandum no later than the expiration date.

6. POC. The POC is the Plans, Operations, and Exercises Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G1, HQ USAREUR, military 314-537-1341/1342, or e-mail: usarmywiesbaden.usareur.mbx.odcs-g1-operations@mail.mil.



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