

DEFENSE TRAVEL MANAGEMENT OFFICE



Department of Defense

Defense Travel System Regulations

These Regulations replace the DoD FMR, Volume 9, Chapter 2 (August 2014)

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEFENSE TRAVEL SYSTEM REGULATIONS

0301 GENERAL

030101. Overview

In accordance with DoD Instruction 5154.31, Volume 3, it is Department of Defense (DoD) policy that DTS is the single online travel system used by the DoD. This policy applies to all travel functions currently supported by DTS and those supported in the future as they become available. (Note: Available trip types are listed in the *DoD Defense Travel System Best Practices, Chapter 7* at https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Docs/DoD_DTS_Best_Practices.pdf.)

This regulation does not modify the DoD Financial Management Regulation (DoD FMR) or the Joint Travel Regulations (JTR).

030102. Purpose

This regulation defines the:

- A. Responsibilities of DTS users by user role.
- B. Types of official travel documents created in DTS.
- C. Financial aspects of DTS.
- D. Minimum required training for each user role.

030103. Additional Guidance

- A. General travel information is located on the Defense Travel Management Office (**DTMO**) website.
- B. Mandatory and suggested **training** is located on the DTMO website.
- C. After exhausting all locally mandated troubleshooting options (e.g., local help desks), address all travel-related questions to the Travel Assistance Center:
 - 1. By help ticket: Via the Travel Explorer (**TraX**) website.
 - 2. By telephone: 1-888-HELP-1-GO (1-888-435-7146) from any commercial CONUS line or from any DSN line if OCONUS.

0302 TRAVEL POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Address questions concerning travel policy, exceptions, or deviations to:

Defense Travel Management Office
ATTN: Strategic Planning and Policy Division
4800 Mark Center Drive
Suite 04J25-01
Alexandria, VA 22350-9000

0303 RESPONSIBILITIES OF ACCOUNTABLE OFFICIALS

DoD FMR, Volume 5, Chapter 1 defines accountable officials as Service members or DoD civilian employees of a DoD Component who are pecuniarily liable for repayment of losses or deficiencies of public money. For guidance on who may be appointed to positions of accountability see DoD FMR, Volume 5, Chapter 1 and for appointment requirements see DoD FMR, Volume 5, Chapter 2. Accountable officials involved in the travel management process who serve as control points within the organization include:

030301. Certifying Officer (CO)

In accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3325(a)(1)(B), a DoD Component cannot disburse a payment unless it is certified to a disbursing officer by a properly appointed CO. DoD Components must appoint all DTS users that certify payments as COs. COs certify funds for payment in accordance with the 31 U.S.C. 3325 and DoD FMR, Volume 5.

A. COs must meet the qualifications in DoD FMR, Volume 5 and be appointed using DD Form 577, Appointment/Termination Record – Authorized Signature. When a CO no longer holds the position, revoke the appointment. Signed appointments and revocations must be maintained for six years and three months after the CO no longer holds the position. DoD Components may also mandate additional record management requirements.

B. COs must comply with all training and administrative requirements in Volume 5, Chapter 5, this regulation (Table 2) and with any additional DoD Component-specific requirements.

C. COs must implement, maintain, and enforce system and other internal procedures and control points within a DoD Component to minimize opportunities for erroneous payments.

D. In accordance with 28 U.S.C. 2512 and 31 U.S.C. 3528, COs are presumed negligent and may be pecuniarily liable for all improper payments that they certify.

030302. Departmental Accountable Official (DAO)

When certifying payments, COs often rely on information and data provided by systems and other personnel. In accordance with 10 U.S.C. 2773a, DoD Components may designate Service members and DoD civilian employees as DAOs. 10 U.S.C. 2773a does not, however, statutorily mandate that the DoD Components appoint DAOs to perform such activities. The practice of appointing DAOs to perform any particular function or class of functions is an option available to management/the Command for inclusion in systems of internal controls.

A. When considering whether to permit only persons appointed as DAOs to perform duties that generate the information, data, or services that COs rely on, appointing authorities must take into account considerations that include accomplishing mission and functions under their area of responsibility, the availability of resources, the sufficiency of other internal controls, and whether or not a governing policy or directive mandates performance of some function only by a properly appointed DAO (see DoD FMR, Volume 5).

B. DoD Components determine whether to appoint and use DAOs, as well as which DTS users to appoint as DAOs.

C. When used, DAOs must be appointed on a DD Form 577. Signed appointments and revocations must be maintained for six years and three months after the DAO no longer holds the position. DoD Components may also mandate additional record management requirements.

D. DAOs must comply with all training and administrative requirements in DoD FMR, Volume 5, Chapter 5 and comply with any additional DoD Component-specific requirements.

E. DAOs are not subject to the presumption of negligence, but may be found to be pecuniarily liable for improper payments made as a result of their input.

0304 RESPONSIBILITIES OF DTS USERS

Appoint DTS users as accountable officials in accordance with Table 1. Not all DTS users require appointments as accountable officials. Except where noted otherwise, DoD Components define the DTS user's responsibilities and based on the DTS user's defined duties, determine whether to appoint the DTS user as COs or DAOs. DTS users may serve in more than one DTS role provided that an adequate separation of duties is maintained in accordance with DoD FMR, Volume 5 and DoD Component guidance.

In addition to training required by DoD FMR, Volume 5, DTS users must meet the minimum training as outlined in Table 2 or an alternate training plan as established by the DoD Component. DoD Components may designate alternatives to the training courses provided in Table 2 and levy additional training requirements as needed.

030401. Authorizing Official (AO)

AOs control the mission by authorizing travel and controlling the use of travel funds in accordance with the JTR.

A. There are two kinds of AOs in DTS:

1. AOs that are appointed as COs. These AOs may approve all types of DTS documents, so long as AOs follow separation-of-duties requirements.

2. AOs that only authorize travel. These AOs may:

a. Be appointed as DAOs following DoD Component guidance.

b. Only approve authorizations that do not contain a request for scheduled partial payments (SPP) or non-automated teller machine (ATM) advances.

B. Before official travel occurs, all AOs must:

1. Determine if travel is mission essential and in the U.S. Government's interest. If the mission can be accomplished more economically by correspondence, teleconference, web-based communications, or other appropriate means, AOs must not authorize travel.

2. Verify the DTS lines of accounting are assigned correctly.

3. Verify the DTS budget module contains sufficient funds prior to authorizing travel. When official travel "should cost" estimates exceed the amount of funds available, request the Finance Defense Travel Administrator add funding allocations to the budget module. If additional funds are not allocated, the AO must not authorize travel.

4. Review travel documents to verify compliance with the JTR, DoD Component guidance, and mission requirements.

5. Review DTS flag items as questionable or non-compliant with travel policy to verify justifications are valid. If justifications are not valid, return the document for correction.

6. Verify all requests for other than economy/coach class travel are approved in accordance with the JTR.

7. Verify all required pre-trip substantiating documentation is electronically attached to travel documents.

8. Approve authorizations in a timely manner to permit obligations for travel expenses and procuring reservations for anticipated travel. When air travel is required, expeditious handling is critical to ensure ticket purchasing of flights.

9. Ensure the traveler's Government Travel Charge Card (GTCC) is activated prior to approval of travel.

C. After official travel has occurred, AOs that are also appointed as COs must:

1. Review all vouchers and justifications to verify expenses are valid.
2. Certify all vouchers for payment by using a digital signature to allow split disbursement of funds for authorized expenses to the Individually Billed Account (IBA) GTCC vendor and the traveler.
3. Verify all required supporting documents are attached to the DTS voucher.

020402. Centrally Billed Account (CBA) Specialist (CBA-S)

DTS refers to this role as the "Transportation Officer." CBA-Ss reconcile monthly CBA invoices against authorized expenses charged to CBAs. There are two kinds of CBA-Ss in DTS:

A. Service Members and DoD civilian employees that certify reconciled CBA invoices for payment must be appointed as COs.

B. Individuals who reconcile monthly CBA invoices but do not certify invoices for payment may be Service Members, DoD civilian employees, or contractor personnel. CBA-Ss who are Service Members or DoD civilian employees may be appointed as DAOs.

030403. Debt Management Monitor (DMM)

DMMs may be appointed as DAOs to track the debt collection process in DTS due to overpayment of travel funds to travelers. For guidance on debt management policies and procedures, reference DoD FMR, Volume 16. DMMs use the Debt Management Module to:

- A. Record debt waiver and appeal requests and responses.
- B. Record direct debt collections (e.g., travelers pay by check or Pay.Gov).
- C. Request and record debt collection via payroll deduction.
- D. Request and record debt write-off for uncollectible debts under \$225 belonging to travelers that are no longer paid by DoD in accordance with DoD FMR, Volume 4, Chapter 3..
- E. Request and record debt transfers of debts \$225 and over belonging to travelers that are no longer paid by DoD.

030404. Routing Official

Routing Officials, when used, review and digitally sign DTS documents before the AO. Routing Officials may be appointed as DAOs in accordance with DoD Component guidance. Some examples of common Routing Official functions in DTS are to:

- A. Verify the correct lines of accounting are assigned.
- B. Verify the budget module contains sufficient funds.
- C. Review documents to verify compliance with the JTR, DoD Component guidance, and mission requirements.
- D. Review pre-audit flags to verify traveler justifications are appropriate.
- E. Verify all requests for other than economy/coach class travel are approved in accordance with the JTR.
- F. Verify all required substantiating documentation is electronically attached to the document.

030405. Travel Preparer

Travel preparers (e.g., travel clerks, administrative assistants) are non-accountable Service Members, DoD civilian employees, or contractor personnel. Non-accountable officials must not be appointed as COs or DAOs. Travel preparers may:

- A. Create and digitally sign DTS authorizations for travelers.
- B. Create DTS vouchers (including local vouchers) for travelers. Travel preparers may not digitally sign vouchers for travelers. Vouchers created by travel preparers must be digitally signed by travelers to attest to the accuracy of the voucher's contents.

030406. Non-DTS Entry Agent (NDEA)

NDEAs are non-accountable Service Members, DoD civilian employees, or contractor personnel. Non-accountable officials must not be appointed as COs or DAOs. NDEAs are authorized to input and digitally sign DTS vouchers (including local vouchers) for travelers that do not have reasonable access to DTS. NDEAs must:

- A. Receive a signed DD Form 1351-2, Travel Voucher Or Subvoucher; or Standard Form (SF) 1164, Claim for Reimbursement for Expenditures on Official Business; and other required documents from travelers. A printed DD Form 1351-2 or SF 1164 with a Common Access Card verified digital signature is an acceptable alternative to the paper forms. NOTE: Travelers submit the signed forms in lieu of digitally signing travel vouchers.

- B. Use the signed DD Form 1351-2 or SF 1164 to create the DTS voucher.

- C. Attach electronic copies of all provided documents to the DTS voucher.
- D. Digitally sign the DTS voucher.

030407. Defense Travel Administrator (DTA)

DoD Components determine each organization's DTA structure and each DTA's responsibilities and DoD Components may appoint DTAs as DAOs. DoD Components must maintain a clear separation of duties when an AO or CO functions as a DTA. Although DTA responsibilities vary at each organization, up to four types of DTAs are empowered to maintain DTS:

A. Lead DTA (LDTA). Usually, LDTAs manage all DTS activities at a site, and:

- 1. Determine the organization's DTS organization structure.
- 2. Assign specific responsibilities to other DTAs.
- 3. Verify that DTS routing lists ensure only appropriate officials review and approve DTS documents.
- 4. Verify that DTS user permission levels provide an appropriate separation of duties. In cases where a clear separation of duties is not possible, the circumstances must be reported in accordance with DoD FMR, Volume 5, Chapter 1.
- 5. Manage the organization's DTS training program.
- 6. Establish and maintain local business processes.

B. Organization DTA (ODTA). Usually, ODTAs:

- 1. Use DTS to establish and maintain personal profiles, organization profiles, routing lists, and groups for one or more organizations.
- 2. Assist the organization's travelers in resolving DTS and other travel-related issues.

C. Finance DTA (FDTA). FDTAs manage the financial aspects of DTS for the organization and in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 1341 (also known as the "Antideficiency Act"), adhere to sound funds control and accounting practices. Usually, Finance DTAs:

- 1. Establish and maintain lines of accounting.
- 2. Allocate funds to the Budget module as soon as funds are available.
- 3. In accordance with DoD Component guidelines, reconcile the budget module with the organization's official accounting system.

D. Budget DTA (BDTA). Usually, BDTAs:

1. Update DTS budget targets.
2. In accordance with DoD Component guidelines, reconcile the budget module with the organization's official accounting system.

030408. Traveler

Travelers may create, amend, and digitally sign DTS authorizations, vouchers, and local vouchers. Travelers are not accountable officials, but are legally liable for submitting false or fraudulent claims for payment in accordance with 18 U.S.C. 287 and 1001 and 31 U.S.C. 3729 (also known as the False Claims Act).

A. Before official travel occurs, travelers or others authorized to act on their behalf must:

1. Verify the organization, personal, and financial information contained in the travelers' DTS personal profile is accurate.
2. Create and digitally sign authorizations that:
 - a. Establish the conditions for official travel.
 - b. Identify the purpose for official travel.
 - c. Identify the basis for travel allowances and reimbursement for official expenses.
 - d. Are not modified retroactively to add, delete, or change travel allowances except to correct or complete the authorizations.
3. Provide justifications for pre-audit flags.
4. Submit requests for other than economy/coach class travel in accordance with the JTR.
5. Electronically attach all required pre-trip substantiating documents.
6. Ensure the GTCC is activated prior to approval of travel.

B. After official travel has occurred, travelers(or others authorized to act on the traveler's behalf) create vouchers from authorization, digitally sign vouchers, and must:

1. Adjust "should cost" estimated expenses to reflect actual expenses incurred. Travelers must be mindful of changes in lodging and per diem rates by comparing lodging costs on receipts against the "should cost" estimated rate.

2. Electronically attach:
 - a. Receipts or locally approved missing receipt forms for all lodging expenses.
 - b. Receipts for reimbursable expenses of \$75.00 or more and lodging receipts (unless flat rate per diem is directed).
 - c. Approvals for other than economy/coach class travel.
 - d. A signed manually prepared or electronically produced DD Form 1351-2 or SF 1164. This requirement applies when NDEAs enter and digitally sign DTS vouchers.
 - e. DoD Component required documents.
3. Include justifications for travel expenses that:
 - a. Substantially exceed authorized “should cost” estimates.
 - b. Are considered unusual, but permissible, in accordance with applicable laws, the JTR, and DoD Component guidance.

030409. Self-Authorizing Officials (SAO)

- A. Are non-accountable officials.
- B. May approve their own DTS authorizations, unless those authorizations contain a request for payment (i.e., non-ATM advances, SPPs).
- C. May not certify their own vouchers for payment.

0305. DTS TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

030501. Authorization

DTS authorizations establish the conditions under which official travel is performed at U.S. Government expense. Authorizations should be created, signed, and approved before travel begins unless urgent or unusual situations prevent prior creations and approval. Authorizations may include multiple temporary duty (TDY) destinations.

A. DTS supports two types of authorizations:

1. Authorizations establish “should cost” estimates for official travel by a single traveler on a single TDY trip.

2. Group authorizations are appropriate when multiple people are traveling together to the same TDY location(s). Group authorizations:

a. Allow entry of travel information for all travelers at one time. Creating group authorizations may save considerable time and resources.

b. When approved, automatically create separate, individual authorizations for each traveler. Travelers must prepare separate, individual vouchers to be reimbursed for authorized expenses.

B. All authorizations:

1. Provide travelers with information regarding what travel expenses are authorized to be paid.

2. Provide Commercial Travel Offices with necessary documentation for arranging official travel.

3. Provide necessary financial information for budgetary planning.

4. Identify travel purposes.

C. All authorizations must include applicable:

1. Travel itineraries.

2. Reservations or cost information for travel and lodging.

3. Estimated miscellaneous expenses.

4. Per diem and mileage allowances.

5. Funding information.

6. Non-ATM advance and SPP requests.

7. Justifications for selections that are considered unusual, but permissible, in accordance with applicable laws, the JTR, and DoD Component guidance.

030502. Voucher

A. Vouchers are submitted in DTS to:

1. Reimburse the traveler and the GTCC vendor for all legitimate, travel-related expenses incurred while on official travel.

2. Pay the allowances to which the traveler is authorized as a direct result of official travel.

B. DTS supports two types of vouchers:

1. Voucher From Authorization. Vouchers from authorization:

a. Are used to claim reimbursement for official travel expenses incurred on TDY.

b. Must be completed and submitted within five working days of return to or arrival at the permanent duty station in accordance with DoD FMR, Volume 9, Chapter 8.

c. Must include applicable:

(1) Accurate itinerary information, to include points of origin and destination, TDY locations, and modes of travel.

(2) Actual dates, costs, and types of authorized expenses.

(3) Information that supports the calculations of claimed allowances.

(4) IBA GTCC split disbursement information and electronic funds transfer (EFT) information. For additional EFT and split disbursement information, see section 0205.

(5) Receipts for reimbursable expenses of \$75.00 or more and lodging receipts (unless flat rate per diem is directed). COs/AOs may require travelers to provide receipts when expenses appear inaccurate, inflated, or fraudulent.

(6) Other supporting documentation required in accordance with applicable laws, the JTR, and DoD Component guidance. Vouchers digitally signed by an NDEA must include an accurate and signed DD Form 1351-2 or SF 1164.

(7) Traveler's or NDEA's digital signature, AO's digital signature, and other digital signatures as required by DoD Components.

2. Local Voucher. Local vouchers are used to claim reimbursement for official travel expenses in the local area of the permanent duty station. Travelers:

a. Must submit local vouchers as soon as possible after official local travel expenses have been incurred.

b. May submit a local voucher for each individual event, or may combine multiple events on a single claim.

c. May submit claims for reimbursable expenses such as taxis, public transportation, and parking, as well as mileage allowances incurred on official local travel.

0306 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

030601. Fiscal Year Considerations When Planning Official Travel.

A. DTS processes authorizations for official travel that is approved:

1. In one fiscal year, but will not begin until the following fiscal year.

2. To start in one fiscal year and end in another fiscal year.

B. For travel across fiscal years or travel in a future fiscal year:

1. AOs approve authorizations following standard procedures.

2. Travelers, Travel Preparers or NDEAs, create vouchers following standard procedures. Travelers and NDEAs submit signed vouchers following standard procedures. Voucher payments will be held until associated obligations can be processed by DoD Component financial systems.

3. If new fiscal year funds are not made available, travelers must:

a. Return to their permanent duty station.

b. Amend authorizations to adjust the TDY end/return date.

NOTE: Amendments can also be made by Travel Preparers or NDEAs.

c. Cancel submitted authorizations for travel in the next fiscal year. Cancellations can also be made by Travel Preparers or NDEAs.

030602. Non-ATM Advances.

Travelers, in accordance with the DoD Government Travel Charge Card Regulations:

A. May request non-ATM advance payments as part of the travel authorization process. DTS automatically calculates non-ATM advance payment amounts.

B. Must receive AO approval at least 10 days prior to schedule departure dates to ensure funds are available via EFT to travelers' financial institutions. Non-ATM advance payments requested or approved within 10 days of scheduled departure are processed when associated obligation transactions have been processed.

030603. Scheduled Partial Payments.

Travelers shall request SPPs as part of their authorization request when official travel is greater than 45 days. After the AO approves SPP requests, DTS will schedule a payment every 30 days for the amount of anticipated expenses. SPPs split-disburse funds to the IBA GTCC vendor to avoid account delinquency and suspension.

030604. Payment By Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) and Split-Disbursement.

A. Travelers receive allowances and reimbursements for authorized travel expenses via EFT.

B. Travelers issued IBA GTCCs must submit vouchers that split-disburse funds to the GTCC vendor for expenses incurred during official travel. The remaining funds are paid to travelers via EFT.

C. Travelers or others authorized to act on their behalf, must verify:

1. EFT and IBA GTCC information stored in the DTS personal profile is accurate.
2. Vouchers accurately reflect expenses that were charged to IBA GTCCs (e.g., fuel, lodging, airfare, rental vehicle, etc.).
3. Expenses are accurately displayed on the Payment Totals screen.

Table 1: DTS Users Requirements to Appoint as an Accountable Official

DTS User Role	Appointed as CO?	Appointed as DAO?	Non-Accountable Official?
Authorizing Official	Yes, for AOs who approve payments in DTS	Per DoD Component policy for AOs who only approve DTS documents that do not include payments	
Centrally Billed Account Specialist*	Yes, for CBA-Ss who certify CBA invoices for payment	Per DoD Component policy for CBA-Ss who reconcile CBA invoices against DTS documents, but do not certify invoices for payment	
Debt Management Monitor	No	Per DoD Component policy	
Routing Official*	No	Per DoD Component policy	
Travel Preparer*	No	No	Yes
Non-DTS Entry Agent*	No	No	Yes
Defense Travel Administrator (all varieties)*	No	Per DoD Component policy	
Traveler	No	No	Yes
Self Authorizing Officials	No	No	Yes
* Contractor personnel may serve in these roles, but may not be appointed as COs or DAOs.			

Defense Travel System Regulations: Authorized by DoDI 5154.31, Volume 3

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Table 2: Training (DTS users must meet the minimum training as outlined in Table 2 or an alternate training plan as established by the DoD Component)

DTS Role	Required Classes	Recommended Additional Classes
Traveler	1, 2, 4 (See Note 1 below)	3a/b
Travel Preparer	1, 2, 4	3a/b
NDEA	1, 2, 4, 13	3a/b
AO	1, 2, 4, 5 (See Note 1 below)	3 a/b, 9, 14
Routing Official	1, 2, 4, 5	3 a/b, 9
SAO	1, 2, 4, 5	3 a/b, 9
LDTA, ODTA	6, 7, 9	1, 2, 3a/b, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12
FDTA	6, 9, 10	1, 8
BDTA	9, 10	1, 8
DMM	1, 2, 11	9
CBA-S	1, 2, 12	9

Class List

	Series	Class Title	Interval
1	DTS (Basic)	About DTS	As defined by component (suggested before initial use)
2	DTS (Basic)	DTS Travel Documents (DTS 101)	As defined by component (suggested before initial use)
3a	Programs & Policies	City Pair Program	As defined by component
3b	Programs & Policies	US Government Rental Car Program	As defined by component
4	Programs & Policies	Travel Policies	As defined by component (suggested every 3 years)
5	AO/RO	DTS Approval Process	As defined by component (suggested before initial use)
6	DTA	DTA Maintenance Tool: An Overview	As defined by component (suggested before initial use)
7	DTA	DTA Maintenance Tool classes: Groups, Organizations, Routing Lists, People	As defined by component (suggested before initial use)
8	DTA	DTA Travel Certificate Program	As defined by component
9	DTA	Reports	As defined by component
10	FDTA	Budgets/Lines of Accounting	As defined by component (suggested before initial use)
11	FDTA	Debt Management Monitor	As defined by component (suggested before initial use)
12	F200/205	CBA Reconciliation Module - Overview and Application	As defined by component (suggested before initial use)
13	DTS (Basic)	Non-DTS Entry Agent	As defined by component (suggested before initial use)
14	AO/RO	AO Travel Certificate Program (Includes AO Vital Skills, AO Vital Skills Applied, and AO Skills Assessment)	As defined by component

Note 1: Training required for Certifying Officer Legislation is defined in the DoD FMR. Government Travel Charge Card Training requirements are defined in the GTCC Regulations. Therefore these class are not listed in chart above.(e.g. Training for Accountable Officials/Certifying Officers (TAOCO) and Travel Card Program (Travel Card 101).

Note 2: Classes are available via TraX either as on-demand web-based training classes or as scheduled distance learning classes.