



DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2800

FEB 05 2004

In reply refer to:
I-04/000999-P2

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Clarification of Baggage Allowances for International Military Students (IMs)
(DSCA Policy Memo 04-06)

The Security Assistance Management Manual (SAMM) (Table C10.T9.) provides specifics regarding authorized baggage allowances for IMs. The number of bags authorized depends on the duration and type of training. The weight allowance for each bag is 70 pounds.

For travel within the continental United States (CONUS) most U.S. airlines now limit weight per bag to 50 pounds (vice the previously accepted 70 pounds) (see attached). For international flights the 70-pound weight allowance per bag is still in effect – but students must comply with maximum dimension requirements and personally pay for excess weight over 70 pounds.

IMs traveling on an international ticket from their country of origin directly to their training facility should not be required to fund excess baggage unless they have been authorized extra bags or exceed the 70-pound limit per bag. The rules for international tickets, including the 70-pound baggage allowance, apply from the point of origin to the point of destination. For example, if a student flies from Bangkok to Los Angeles, and then transfers planes to go on to San Antonio as the final destination, the 70-pound weight allowance is applicable from Bangkok to San Antonio. No excess weight fees will be charged at Los Angeles if a student's bag is within the airlines limits for international travel.

IMs attending training at different facilities in the United States and taking CONUS air transportation between the training facilities, will be authorized excess baggage weight expenses up to the 70-pound weight limit per authorized bag. Payment for these charges can be done through Miscellaneous Charge Orders (MCOs) or through student reimbursement.

Airlines ceased accepting government excess baggage vouchers on 1 October 2003, but now accept MCOs to pay for extra bags and excess weight (over 50 pounds) on CONUS flights. An MCO is a coupon used at various travel industry companies as a general-purpose voucher for their services. If a specific service charge (such as excess baggage) is indicated on the MCO, use is limited to that service. MCOs have no expiration date, are non-transferable, and valid identification is required for use. The travel office arranging the ticket for the IM can issue an MCO for the excess baggage costs, if they are authorized (sample MCO attached).

In lieu of using an MCO, the student may pay for the excess baggage and seek reimbursement as follows:

1. The IM can go to the airport in advance, pay for the excess baggage, and take the receipt to the International Military Student Officer (IMSO) in time for the charges to be included with the student's final pay voucher; or,
2. The IM can pay for the excess baggage at the airport, retain the receipt, and collect reimbursement upon arrival in their country of origin.

In addition to baggage weight restrictions, some airlines impose an excess baggage embargo that restricts excess baggage to select international destinations. These embargos are generally limited to destinations in Central and South America and the Caribbean during the summer. SAOs and IMSOs working with students in the Southern Command area of responsibility should advise IMSs of these embargos.

Due to the stated changes in airline baggage rules, it is recommend that IMSOs brief IMSs about excess baggage rules and embargos, include airline information in their IMSO Web administrative information, and work with their airline ticket offices to use the MCO method to pay for authorized excess baggage.

The DSCA point of contact for this issue is Ms. Dawn Burke at ph. (703) 601-3864 or e-mail dawn.burke@dscamail.mil.


Richard J. Millies
Deputy Director

Attachment:

- (1) CONUS Airline Baggage Allowance Fees
- (2) Sample Miscellaneous Charge Order

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Airline Baggage Allowances Fees for CONUS

Airline	Checked	Size	Weight	Fee	Carry-On	Size	Weight	Excess Baggage	Size	Weight	Fee
Air Tran	3	62" (1st) 55" (2nd/3rd)	70 lbs		1	45"		No Limit	160"	70 lbs	\$50 ea.
American	2	62"/157 cm greater than 62"	50lbs/23kgs 51-70lbs 71-100lbs	\$25 ea.* \$50 ea.* \$80 ea.*	1	45"	40lbs/18kgs	1st, 2nd & 3rd 4th, 5th, & 6th 7th & additional			\$80 ea. \$105 ea. \$180 ea.
America West	2	62" 62"-80"	50lbs/23kgs 51-70lbs 71-100lbs	\$50 ea.* \$80 ea.* \$80 ea.*	1	45"		up to 9 excess bags			\$80 ea.
Continental Airlines	2	62"/157 cm greater than 62"	50lbs/23kgs 50-70lbs 71-100lbs	\$25 ea.* \$50 ea.* \$80 ea.*	1	51"	40lbs	No Limit			\$80 ea.
Delta	2	62"/157 cm greater than 62"	50lbs/23kgs 51-70lbs 71-100lbs	\$25 ea.* \$80 ea.* \$80 ea.*	1	45"	40lbs/18kgs	1st 2nd & 3rd 4th, 5th, & 6th 7th & additional			\$40 ea. \$80 ea. \$105 ea. \$180 ea.
Northwest Airlines	2	62"/157 cm	50lbs/23kgs 51-70lbs 71-100lbs	\$25 ea.* \$50 ea.*	1	45"	40lbs/18kgs	No Limit <i>(But you must call 2 days ahead to ensure there is space)</i>			\$80 ea.
Southwest Airlines	3	62"/157 cm greater than 62"	70 lbs 71-100lbs	\$35 to \$70*	1	50"		1st & 2nd 3rd, 4th, 5th, & 6th 7th & additional			\$40 ea. \$60 ea. \$110 ea.
United	2	62"/157 cm greater than 62"	50lbs/23kgs greater than 50lbs	\$25 ea.* \$80 ea.*	1	45"		No Limit			\$80 ea.
US Airways	2	62"/157 cm greater than 62"	50lbs/23kgs 51-70lbs 71-100lbs	\$25 ea.* \$80 ea.* \$80 ea.*	1	36"	40lbs	1st, 2nd & 3rd 4th, 5th, & 6th 7th & additional			\$80 ea. \$105 ea. \$180 ea.

Attachment 1

*Charges applied to both checked and excess baggage.

No airline accepts baggage in excess of 100lbs.

All measurements are "overall dimensions" (Height + Width + Depth)

Sample Miscellaneous Charge Order (MCO)

Illustration

REV. 7-84 PRINTED IN U.S.A. BY RAND NORMALLY		(NOT TRANSFERABLE)		MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES ORDER		BANK EXCHANGE RATE		8010:000:000	
NAME OF PASSENGER		TOUR NO.		AUDITOR'S COUPON		EQUIVALENT AMOUNT PAID		PLACE OF ISSUE - AGENCY	
TYPE OF SERVICE FOR WHICH ISSUED		VALIDATE		DATE OF ISSUE		FARE/OTHER		VALIDATE	
				VALID FOR ONE YEAR FROM DATE OF ISSUE		TAX			
VALUE FOR EXCHANGE	AMOUNT IN LETTERS	CURRENCY	AMOUNT IN FIGURES	TAX		TOTAL		VOID IF MUTILATED OR ALTERED	
1	TO	AT	VALID FOR SPECIFIED SERVICES ONLY						
	RESERVATION DATA								
REMARKS		ENDORSEMENTS/RESTRICTIONS (CARBON)		ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH		FORM OF PAYMENT		VALIDATE	
				ISSUED BY		TERMS AND CONDITIONS ON BACK OF PASSENGER'S COUPON			
ISSUED IN EXCHANGE FOR		COMMISSION		TAX		8010000000 2			
CARRIER	FORM	SERIAL NUMBER							
ORIGINAL ISSUE PLACE DATE AGENT/ISSUING CODE									