

## **“Ground Truth”**

### **Key Questions we need help answering to help families make informed decisions about Authorized/Ordered departures and evacuations**

What is the difference between an Authorized and Ordered departure?

Authorized Departure - *Voluntary* departure of command-sponsored military dependents, nonessential DoD civilian employees and their families, families of essential DoD civilian employees, and DoDEA staff and faculty to an announced safe haven is encouraged and authorized at government expense, with return also at government expense.

Ordered Departure - *Mandatory* departure of some or all categories of personnel and dependents (such as military dependents, nonessential DoD civilian employees and their families, families of essential DoD civilian employees, and DoDEA staff and faculty) to designated safe havens is directed by DOS, with implementation of the theater evacuation plan.

Reference: DoD Directive 3025.14, 30 Nov 2017, “Evacuation of U.S. Citizens and Designated Aliens from Threatened Areas Abroad”

What are the allowance differences between an authorized and ordered departure?

The Joint Travel Regulation does not distinguish different allowances between an authorized and ordered departure but considers them both to be evacuation measures. The authorizing/ordering official IAW JTR, Table 6-3 determines what allowances will be authorized and who is eligible to receive them.

Historically, Non-CSP dependents have not been eligible for transportation allowances during an *authorized* departure.

What allowances are non-CSP dependents, CSP dependents, & civilian employees and their dependents eligible for?

Non-command sponsored dependents may be eligible for transportation only and are not authorized safe haven allowances or per diem while traveling.

CSP dependents and civilian employees/dependents may be eligible for evacuation allowances that include per diem, dislocation allowance, transportation, HHG shipment, POV storage/shipment, safe haven allowances, pet transportation, and return transportation costs.

Reference: JTR, Chp 6, Sections 0602-0604

What are my options in terms of destination? What do I do if I don't want to go to my spouse's HOR? Do I have to pay the difference?

The appropriate (DoS/DoD) official determines whether an evacuee will go to a temporary safe haven or designated place to establish a permanent residence.

**If temporary Safe Haven is directed:** (conditions expected to improve)

- When CONUS is listed as the safe haven, an evacuee must select the exact location within the designated geographic area. If the United States is listed as the safe haven, a DoD evacuee must select an exact CONUS safe haven location.
- A dependent directed to go to a safe haven, which instead goes somewhere that is not authorized or approved, is limited to reimbursement for the cost of transportation from the origin to the authorized safe haven location, per JTR, Table 6-14.

**If a Designated Place is directed** (conditions not expected to improve)

- Member selects permanent location in CONUS
- DoD Services obtain authorization or approval from the Secretary concerned for a designated place OCONUS.

Can I choose to safe haven in Japan or Guam instead of US?

A Service member or civilian employee may request permission for a dependent to evacuate to an alternate safe haven.

- Foreign OCONUS (ex. Japan): DoD must obtain DoS authorization through the Principal Deputy USD (P&R)
- Non-foreign OCONUS (ex. Alaska, Hawaii, Guam): must be authorized or approved by Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel & Readiness.

A dependent directed to go to a safe haven, which instead goes somewhere that is not authorized or approved, is limited to reimbursement for the cost of transportation from the origin to the authorized safe haven location, per JTR, Table 6-14.

Reference:

JTR, 1 Nov 2017, Chp 6, Section 060103

What is the threshold for ERD due to stress/duress under current political environment? If family is stressed, then at what point are they too distracting for AD member? Seeking mental health help due to stress?

The approving official may only authorize the early return of your dependents when you have clearly shown that all of the following circumstances exist:

- A valid need to return your dependents.
- The problem/situation occurred after arrival at the overseas duty station
- Local resources (on and off base) cannot resolve the problem
- The approval authority must get the recommendation of applicable religious, mental health, financial management, family counseling, or legal agencies.

The early return of dependents under this issuance will be approved judiciously, and it will be understood clearly by all involved that early return is a last resort. It is

recommended that a sponsor contact their first sergeant prior to applying for ERD through the vMPF.

NOTE: Relocating a Service member's dependents early will not have a bearing on the requirement that the Service member complete the prescribed accompanied tour.

Reference:

DoDI 1315.18, Enclosure 5, Section 6, para e.

What happens to my spouse's next assignment? Is it impacted by the family's decision to depart? What if we have orders, can I just go ahead and go there? What if we have an assignment but not orders yet? Can I go there?

The military member's subsequent assignment will not be canceled due to ERD. Unless specifically stated in this enclosure, dependents can travel to the new assignment at government expense (regardless if orders have been cut) prior to the military sponsor completing his or her remaining overseas tour.

Reference:

DoDI 1315.18, Enclosure 5, Section 6, para f.

What happens to my stuff once I leave? (Household goods, car)

A Service member's evacuated dependent is authorized HHG transportation or storage from a foreign location. HHG can be shipped from:

- The Service member's PDS to a safe haven, a designated place, non-temporary storage (NTS), or a new PDS.
- One safe haven to another safe haven, a designated place, the old PDS, or a new PDS.
- A designated place to the old PDS or to a new PDS.

USFK Pam 600-300 recommends drafting a letter of instruction to be dropped off at AP or RC with POC and shipping destination info. It also recommends maintaining inventory of HHG's in NEO binder to file a claim if property is lost or damaged.

Reference:

JTR, Section 0603, 1 Nov 2017

USFK Pam 600-300, Section 2-10 Personal Preparation, para g.

What about my cell phone contract in Korea? TV/internet contracts? How do I terminate them if I leave Pen suddenly?

Once cell phone service or internet connections are available members can cancel or suspend the contracts until further notice. TV/ internet contracts off post are usually connected to housing contracts which remain in place until further notice.

Does my water/food count against my weight allowance? My pet's water/food?

Your personal baggage including any personal water/food will count against your weight allowance. The pet support items (carrier, food, supplies) will count against your weight limit, but the actual pet will not.

References:

USFK Pam 600-300

JTR 6070

If my pet is less than 25 pounds, do I need a soft (cabin) approved carrier or a hard shell (cargo) carrier for them? Or both?

Recommendation is to have both. If you only have a soft carrier your pet can only be evacuated in situations where they can ride on your lap/under the seat in front of you (i.e. commercial air). If you have a hard-sided carrier that does not fit under the seat, your pet can only go as cargo. If you have both available, you will have more options for evacuation. The only requirement is for an airline-approved carrier.

Reference: USFK PAM 600-300)

If my pet is 3 weeks behind me – who is taking care of him? Feeding/walking?

This situation is most probable in the event that NCEs and pets are moved south to a Relocation Center (RC) prior to disembarking the peninsula, or during movement from Assembly Points (APs) to RCs. In either case the care of the pets will be the responsibility of the AP/RC staff and recommend coordinating walking, feeding, care of pets with local AP/RC staff.

How exactly will I get the required health certificate? What about the ROK requirement to go to the Pyeongtaek port to get certificate verified before depart? Will that happen at the processing line?

We are still working with ROK to determine if an export certificate would be required during a NEO event. The health certificates themselves would be issued at the NEO node by the veterinarian, which is why it is VITAL that personnel with pets bring their pets and process through the node during Courageous Channel.

What if I'm not on Pen when the NEO starts – can someone else “escort” my pet during NEO (similar to mil-to-mil parents sending dependent children with escorts). What documentation would be required to do this?

If anyone other than an owner is handling the movement of a pet, a Designated Representative form is required. This form is a SOFA specific form and is available at the veterinary clinic. It must be completed by both the owner and the individual taking responsibility.

Do GS employees who were employed at Osan, but NEO'd because non-essential have any hiring preference once in the US? Does it matter if they departed under authorized or ordered?

Future hiring preferences for NEO evacuees are directed under PPP Chapter 5, AFR Preferences Guidance, and determined by the authorized or ordered departure letter once issued by AFPC.

Do DODEA teachers/staff leave at Authorized? Are they allowed to leave at authorized?

DoD in coordination with DoS could include DoDEA staff in the list of Eligible members for an authorized departure. Historical precedent over the past 3 years has shown that Authorized Departures excluded DoDEA staff. However, an Authorized Departure in Korea could be different than previous Authorized departures due to the size of population, unique location and geography, and natural or man-made threats that exist.

The decision to issue an Authorized departure from the peninsula would be approved under great consideration and it is recommended that should DoDEA schools remain open, that families not include this in their decision making process regarding their personal safety.

**REFERENCES:**

USFK PAM 600-300, *Non-Combatant Emergency Evacuation Instructions*, 17 Apr 2015

DoDI 3025.14, *Evacuation of U.S. citizens and designated aliens from threatened areas abroad*, 26 Feb 2013

DoDI 1315.18, *Procedures for Military Personnel Assignments*

Joint Travel Regulation

DoDI 1342.22

DoDI 3001.02

Joint Publication 3-68, *Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations*