

CHAPTER 105

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

A. GENERAL

1. Standards. Standards for rail service must comply with the Military Rail Agreement (MRA) on file at DTMO. The only approved DOD rail passenger carrier is the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, or commonly known as AMTRAK. In overseas areas, theater CDRs must establish standards IAW host country agreements and conventions.
2. Authority. Except as otherwise specifically provided in travel orders, accommodations by rail transportation must be provided to members and DOD civilian employees as determined by the TO (See JFTR, par. U3600, Train Transportation, and JTR, par. C3600, Train Transportation). Rail will be provided only when it meets mission requirements and is the most cost effective mode taking into consideration best value such as travel time, per diem, and miscellaneous expenses.

B. ROUTING AUTHORITY

Air is the preferred mode of travel unless the orders issuing authority specifies otherwise in traveler's orders. When rail is the selected mode of travel, all routings will be done by the TO. TOs have the option of requesting assistance from USTRANSCOM DDOC or overseas agency.

C. BAGGAGE

Under the MRA, the checked baggage allowance for each person must be IAW the carrier's tariff. In overseas areas, the allowance may vary by carrier. Excess baggage may be carried when specifically authorized in the travel order. Travelers are responsible for off-loading baggage from privately owned and government vehicles and making it available to the carrier at their check-in point.

D. GOVERNMENT-OWNED ANIMALS

Government-owned animals, when accompanied by an attendant holding a valid travel document or ticket, will be shipped in containers as excess baggage.

E. MILITARY IMPEDIMENTA

Military impedimenta, as distinguished from articles included in the free baggage allowance under the Tender of Service and the baggage tariffs of carriers in connection with troop movements, handled in a passenger train service must be covered by a government travel card or a centrally billed account. BLs must be endorsed in the "routing via" space to indicate "Passenger Train Service Required".

F. WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION

1. **Privately-Owned Weapons.** Travelers must comply with all laws and regulations of the US, its territories, foreign countries, and local municipalities with regard to possession, carrying, and shipping of weapons and ammunition.
2. **Government-Owned Weapons.** Travelers using rail must have the authority to carry weapons included in the travel orders. TOs are responsible to ensure travelers, CDRs, and/or designated agents are briefed on all laws and regulations of the US, its territories, foreign countries, and local municipalities with regard to possession, carrying, and shipping of weapons and ammunition. TOs must coordinate with carrier, station managers, and/or charter representatives on requirements and security.
3. See Appendix I for additional information.

G. RAIL TRAVEL DATA REPORTING

Reporting requirements for rail passenger travel are contained in Appendix H.