



UNITED STATES
CIVILIAN BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS

July 6, 2012

CBCA 2750-TRAV

In the Matter of STANFORD C. GOSS

Stanford C. Goss, Lexington Park, MD, Claimant.

Bonnie Petree, Travel Department Supervisor, Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, Department of the Navy, Patuxent River, MD, appearing for Department of the Navy.

DRUMMOND, Board Judge.

Claimant, Stanford C. Goss, a civilian employee of the Department of the Navy (agency), paid for hotel lodging expenses through an on-line booking service when he traveled on government business in 2011. Because Mr. Goss failed to produce an itemized hotel receipt, the agency declined to reimburse him for those expenses.¹ The agency relies on the following provision of the Joint Travel Regulations (JTR), which was in effect at the time Mr. Goss traveled:

On-Line Booking Tool. . . . Lodging reimbursement is authorized for hotel lodging obtained through an online booking agent only when the traveler can provide a documented itemized receipt for room costs from the hotel or online booking agent showing the following charges (CBCA 2431-TRAV, 13

¹ Mr. Goss asserts that he is entitled to \$522.75, the sum of two nights of lodging at \$209 per night, plus taxes and fees of \$104.75. The agency represents that it already inadvertently reimbursed him for the taxes and fees. At this time, the agency has not asked Mr. Goss to remit the \$104.75 for taxes and fees, but does assert that Mr. Goss was denied reimbursement of \$418 in lodging expenses, not \$522.75 as he claims.

September 2011):

- (1) Daily hotel room costs;
- (2) Daily hotel taxes; and
- (3) Daily miscellaneous fees, if applicable.

JTR C4555-B.5.

Mr. Goss has produced an itemized confirmation statement from the online booking service indicating a per night lodging charge of \$209 for two nights, and the third night free, totaling \$418, and taxes and fees totaling \$104.75 for the three nights. The taxes and fees are not further itemized. The statement further references the last four digits of Mr. Goss' credit card, and states that the reservation has been paid in full. Mr. Goss has also produced a hotel invoice which confirms his occupancy for the three nights, and references the confirmation number and last four digits of his credit card. The hotel shows a room tax fee on the last day totaling \$6.27. The hotel was unable to produce an itemized invoice showing the charges for the lodging and taxes and fees paid by Mr. Goss to the online service. Finally, he has produced an email message from the online booking service which confirms that he paid \$522.75 for the use of the room.

Mr. Goss' documentation is sufficient to permit reimbursement of lodging costs. *See Chong Wang*, CBCA 2747-TRAV, 12-1 BCA ¶ 34,995; *Emily J. Rypma*, CBCA 2511-TRAV, 12-1 BCA ¶ 34,891 (2011); *Scott R. Wilson*, CBCA 2563-TRAV, 12-1 BCA ¶ 34,896 (2011); *Scott M. Torrice*, CBCA 2431-TRAV, 11-2 BCA ¶ 34,839. We consequently direct the Navy to reimburse him for his lodging expenses totaling \$418 -- provided that the amounts are within the maximum per day limit for the location to which he traveled.

The issue of the taxes and fees already paid to Mr. Goss is not before the Board. However, *Wang* guides that those expenses are reimbursable if amounts "represent true hotel taxes in the location of the hotel." *Chong Wang*, 12-1 BCA at 171,987.

The Board grants the claim as explained above.

JEROME M. DRUMMOND
Board Judge