

## Authorizing or Approving Official (AO) Directs a Service Member to Use Usually-Traveled Route Instead of Government Transportation Due to Excessive Travel Time & Mileage on the Government Flights (JTR, par. 020203-A, 020208-A)

**Scenario:** A Service member stationed in Tokyo, Japan is ordered on a TDY to Kabul, Afghanistan. The usually traveled route to Kabul, Afghanistan is on a commercial air flight to Kuwait and then on a Government air flight from Kuwait to Kabul.

Government transportation by Military Air has a flight from Tokyo, Japan to Seattle, Washington. The Service member would then board a commercial air flight from Seattle to Baltimore, Maryland where he or she could meet the next Military Air flight from Baltimore to Ramstein, Germany. He or she then travels by commercial air from Ramstein to Kuwait followed by a Government air flight from Kuwait to Kabul.

Government transportation by air for travel OCONUS is generally considered the most advantageous method even if it is not the most direct route. However, this itinerary would require the Service member to travel indirectly on a route that is significantly longer in mileage and time.

In this scenario, even though the Government flights are the preferred travel method and less expensive, the AO should choose the commercial flight from Tokyo to Kuwait because it is over a usually traveled route with substantially less travel time.

**Note:** The rates and costs in this example are for illustrative purposes only.

Step 1. Evaluate the length of travel of the usual travel route on a commercial flight		
• Tokyo to Kuwait (commercial air)		
• Kuwait to Kabul (Government)	\$3,598	7,497 miles (14 hours)
Step 2. Evaluate the length of travel of the travel route maximizing Government transportation		
• Tokyo to Seattle (Government)		
• Seattle to Baltimore (commercial air)		
• Baltimore to Ramstein (Government)		
• Ramstein to Kuwait (commercial air)	\$2,951	13,471 miles (37 hours)
• Kuwait to Kabul (Government)		
Step 3. Compare the length of travel of the commercial flight to the Government flight and choose the lesser		
Tokyo - Kuwait (commercial air)		7,497 miles (14 hours)
Kuwait – Kabul (Government)		
Tokyo - Seattle - Baltimore - Ramstein - Kuwait - Kabul (Government)		13,471 miles (37 hours)
Step 4. AO chooses the usually traveled route		
<b>Service member travels on commercial flight</b>		<b>Tokyo - Kuwait - Kabul</b>