



The

DFAS-Indianapolis
Travel Pay Operations



Reserve Traveler

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Why can't DFAS accept my digitally signed voucher?

One issue that travel pay offices have been facing is having to send vouchers back to a command due to the use of a digital signature. Many approving officers would rather digitally sign a signature block rather than manually sign the 1351-2. While DFAS is striving to move towards accepting digital signatures, we are not able to accept a digitally signed 1351-2.

In May 2006 a DOD memorandum stated that "The primary targets for digital signature use are the applications and systems that require or include an authorizing or verifying signature, have auditable electronic transactions, or need to provide responsibility and traceability." Some of the orders we receive are being cut on systems that may have been certified by the Joint Integrated Test Command (JITC), but that do not provide an auditable electronic transaction with the travel system and do not provide tractability and responsibility because there is no electronic interface with the systems used by the travel payment offices using the order to support a payment.

In order to implement the use of digital signatures, DFAS must receive additional guidance. Until approval is received for electronic signatures, mechanically produced orders that conform to the requirements of the AR 600-8-105 will be accepted. Orders produced by other systems that are digitally signed must contain a written signature or meet the Army's guidance for mechanically produced orders.

We will address this topic in issues to come since actions to integrate digital signatures into the travel pay systems are underway. Until a method is developed to interface the digitally signed order-writing system with the DFAS office receiving the document, remember to obtain a hand written signature.

It is important to get your claim right so this Doesn't Happen to You...

<u>Vouchers Returned (January):</u>	5,650
Orders (missing, incomplete, illegible)	1,479
1351-2 (incomplete, missing, illegible)	1,607
Missing Receipts	132
Incomplete Advance	0
Unauthorized Expense	136
Miscellaneous/DTS claims	2,086

Are you a reservist that is called to active duty? About the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act.

In 1940 the Soldiers' and Sailor's Civil Relief Act (SSCRA) was put into place in order to protect and support reserve members who are called to active duty. Many items are covered under this Act that are helpful to soldiers making the transition and preparation for mobilization.

Some of the most known provisions deal with interest rate reductions on credit cards, interest rate reductions on mortgage payments, protection from eviction (if your rent is \$1,200 or less), and delay of civil court actions. More information can be found at the following link:

http://www.defense.gov/specials/relief_act_revision/

Also, you may contact your unit or your installation legal assistance office for a personalized overview and for more details on how the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act can benefit you.

Tax Season is still here! What you need to know about taxes.

Many people grow frantic throughout tax season because of the possibility of owing taxes or not getting the amount back that was anticipated. As a reservist, there is a way in which you can maximize your refund by claiming travel expenses.

The following was obtained from the article "The 11 Most Overlooked Tax Deductions" on <http://www.military.com>:

"Military reservists' travel expenses. If you are a member of the National Guard or military reserve, you may deserve a deduction for travel expenses to drills or meetings. To qualify, you must travel more than 100 miles and be away from home overnight. If you qualify, you can deduct the cost of lodging and half the cost of your meals, plus 48.5 cents per mile (and any parking or toll fees) for driving your own car. You get this deduction whether or not you itemize."

While everyone has a unique tax situation, this information may be helpful to you. Please consult your tax advisor for a consultation and a list of customized deductions and credits that you are eligible for. Also, seek additional information and other ways that you can save money to make sure you are getting as much back on your tax return as possible.

To check the status of your travel claim,
call [1-888-332-7366](tel:1-888-332-7366).



Send Comments, Questions, and/or Ideas to:
TheReserveTraveler@DFAS.MIL

Note: This is NOT a method of travel claim submission.

