

## **USE OF GOVs AND OTHER TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES**

1. The use of Army owned or controlled non-tactical vehicles is restricted to official purposes in accordance with Army Regulation 58-1. Transportation may be provided for military and civilian personnel officially participating in public ceremonies, military field demonstrations and parades directly related to official activities.
2. **Speaking Engagements.** Army Regulation 360-1, Chapter 4-2, advises that travel to speaking engagements is considered mission related travel, including travel complimentary to the installation's public affairs mission. Army resources are permissible to support events and activities of common interest and benefit to local, state, regional, national, or broadly represented audiences. Army Regulation 360-1 cautions that resource and operational constraints preclude the Army from responding positively to every valid request for a military presence. For example, the Commanding General may use official travel resources to address the McConnell Center audience at the University of Louisville or a Louisville-based Infantry Ball. Appearances at the local "Hooray for Heroes" event, attendance at Greater Louisville Inc. (GLI) or local chamber meetings, or parade appearances are other examples of authorized local public affairs travel. Separate legal advice should be obtained for offers of a gratuity associated with the social event, including meals, entertainment, or gift items.
3. **Other Official Attendance.** In addition to the public affairs travel discussed above, there are a variety of additional official missions for which official travel resources are authorized. This may range from command oversight, officiating at ceremonies, observing and evaluating training, and numerous other engagements. Special caution is required for travel that could create the appearance of resource use for other than official purposes, such as travel after duty hours or travel that may include associated leave or pass. The OSJA will advise on these individual scenarios on a case-by-case basis. The Joint Travel Regulation presents an obligation to exercise prudence in government travel. This includes using the least expensive transportation mode and parking accommodations. Further, travel is not authorized when the subject mission can be accomplished by teleconference or automation. Spouses may travel on a space available basis with the sponsor in a vehicle used to transport Army personnel to an official event when the transportation of the spouse does not result in additional expense (may not obtain a larger vehicle to accommodate the travel of spouses).
4. **Recent Guidance on Use of Official Resources.** The sequestration guidance restricts non-local travel greater than 100 miles for outreach purposes. It does not include the costs of ground transportation provided from installation resources to participate in local events. All military support to non-DoD organizations for outreach activities will cease, unless there is reimbursement for all incremental costs. Local and community relations activities are permitted as long as support can be provided locally and at no cost to the Department. The OSJA provides guidance on offers of travel reimbursement or in-kind travel support provided by requesting non-federal organizations under the guidance found in 31 USC § 1353.

5. Sporting Events or Similar Invitations. Recent guidance from the Office of Government Ethics was issued in September 2012 (OGE Advisory 12 X 05) which clarifies the type of official engagement required to permit the use of official transportation resources for such events. The OGE ruling advised that unless the Federal official is speaking or is otherwise formally engaged as part of the agenda for the event, official transportation resources may not be utilized. This guidance will impact travel support authority for such events as the Kentucky Oaks or Derby, sporting events hosted by the University of Kentucky or University of Louisville, or dinners hosted by local charities or similar organizations. The OSJA will continue to provide ethics advice on the authority to accept offers of free admission, meals or other offered gratuities under the “widely attended gathering” provision of the ethics standards.