

TRAVEL TO ARMY TEN MILER AND SIMILAR UNOFFICIAL COMPETITION INFORMATION PAPER

1. PURPOSE. Army ROTC programs participate in many official programs away from campus (e.g., LDX, FTX, Ranger Challenge) where official travel resources are clearly authorized. ROTC cadets and cadre also participate in unofficial competition events when use of travel funds and government vehicles is not permissible (e.g., Army Ten Miler, Bataan Memorial Death March). Unless participation is official in nature, Government resources are not authorized.
2. TRAVEL AND USE OF GOVS. Participation in endurance events is generally performed in a personal capacity. Travel to unofficial events such as the Army Ten Miler (ATM), the Bataan Memorial Death March, and similar endurance or fitness events may be made using official travel orders only when traveling in an official capacity. This could include approved missions for recruitment or other official missions. Use of GOVs or APF travel orders for travel are restricted to uses which further legitimate and approved government interest.¹
3. PARTICIPATION IN UNOFFICIAL EVENTS: Competing in the Army policy documents prohibit the use of APF travel resources to pay for participation in unofficial competitive events.² Though participation in morale and fitness events are encouraged, appropriated funds are not available to individuals voluntarily participating.³ Cadets may also have other resources available to them to fund unofficial event participation such as local MWR NAFs, cadet informal funds, or university funds (where authorized by university policy). However, Army Garrisons have the opportunity to fund Army Ten Miler or similar event participants who compete for installation team slots using non-appropriated (NAF) funds.⁴
4. USE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS TO PURCHASE ATHLETIC GEAR: Government funds are generally not available to purchase athletic gear (T-shirts, team travel suits) for unofficial competitive events.⁵ The options for participating cadets or cadre are the same as listed above. Similarly, universities or private funds established at the department level may provide funding for clothing and equipment if it within their policy and state law.
5. PERFORMANCE OF OFFICIAL DUTY AT UNOFFICIAL EVENTS: In recent years there have been numerous efforts to seek APF support for attendance at unofficial activities. For the Ten Miler, Cadet Command obtained TRADOC approval for the HOOAH tent program with specific authorized APF recruiting support.⁶ There is no recruiting authority which supports individual ROTC programs to send cadet teams to an unofficial event as “recruiting teams.”

¹ DoD 4500.36-R (4); AR 58-1.

² MFSD, US Army Installation Management Command, SUBJECT: Army Ten-Miler—Garrison Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Team Selection Guidance and use of Non-Appropriated Funds (NAF). MFSD, HQ US Army Forces Command, SUBJECT: Policy on the Use of Appropriated Funds for the Army Ten-Miler.

³ MFSD, Office of the Assistant Secretary, SUBJECT: Appropriated Fund Policy Change Request for the Army Ten-Miler.

⁴ AR 215-1, Appendix D, Table D-1

⁵ Principles of Federal Appropriations Law, Third Edition, Chpt 4, dated Jan. 2004.

⁶ AR 145-1, Section II, 1-9.

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Coordination with USACC RMID is strongly encouraged for requests to seek legitimate recruiting/marketing mission support. Another example of potential misuse of funds is attempting to characterize the participation in unofficial completion events as military training. Though outside-the-classroom training is beneficial and encouraged, funds appropriated for training must be used in accordance within the school and ROTC's approved curriculum.⁷

6. ARMY INSTALLATION ATM TEAMS. Installation ATM teams receive NAF funding support. Travel in GOVs to unofficial competitive events may be authorized using MWR funds when participating as part of an official installation or command sports team.⁸ This exception only applies to teams composed of personnel officially representing an installation in a scheduled competitive event that has previously been approved for MWR funding. In these situations GOV usage can be authorized to transport team members to and from the event.

⁷ AR 145-1, Chpt 5-2, (b).

⁸ AR 58-1; Sect. 2-3(e); Sect. 5-5(b)(3).