

Military Families Fly Free with Space Available Travel

A permanent policy change will allow family members of deployed military members to travel anywhere "Space-A" or space available on military flights without their sponsors under certain conditions. The change, which took effect Dec. 6, allows qualified family members to fly Space-A without their sponsor within the U.S., between the U.S. and overseas, and between overseas areas during the sponsor's deployment period.

This policy applies to all passenger aircraft owned or controlled by the military; however, some Navy air terminals had not gotten the word. Therefore, family members may want to print a copy of the policy and implementation rules before calling an air terminal or going to a terminal to sign up for a flight. Passengers can fly Space-A on military or military-contracted aircraft only after requirements for military cargo and passengers have been met for those flights. Personnel contacted at several air terminals said they generally have a few Space-A seats available. Regulations require that all surplus seats be made available for Space-A travel.



The conditions are as follows:

- Family members must be legal dependents - spouses and children - of military personnel (including National Guard and Reserve members)
- Service member is activated and deployed for at least 120 consecutive days or more, according to officials at the Air Force's Air Mobility Command
- There is no limit on the number of times family members of deployed troops can travel on Space-A flights
- Those eligible may sign up for Space-A travel before the sponsor's deployment, but no earlier than 10 days beforehand
- Dependents can start travel on the first day of the member's deployment and must complete their travel by the last day of the deployment
- Family members must have a letter from the sponsor's commander verifying the deployment, and it must be in the dependents' possession. The letter is good for the duration of the member's deployment. If the letter is lost, destroyed or no longer legible, the family member must get a new one
- Children under age 18 must be accompanied by an eligible parent or legal guardian. Family members in these circumstances are classified as Category 4, which means they have a higher priority for getting Space-A seats than retirees and their family members, who have the lowest priority, Category 6
- Officials remind family members that flying Space-A on military or military-contracted flights is a privilege, not a guarantee. Passengers should be prepared to purchase commercial transportation at any point
- Space-A passengers also may have to pay certain federal fees when entering or leaving the continental U.S. on commercial contract aircraft

For more information including contact information for military terminals, go to:

<http://www.amc.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-060328-001.doc> or

<http://www.militarytimes.com/static/projects/pages/011808spaceamemo.pdf>



DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR
LOGISTICS AND MATERIEL READINESS
3500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3500

DEC 6 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS

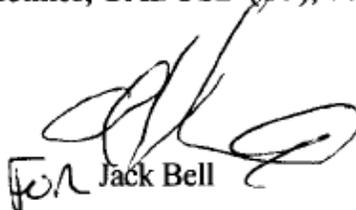
- ✓ CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
- ✓ UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
- ✓ COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
- ✓ ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
- ✓ GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
- ✓ DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
- ✓ INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
- ✓ ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
- ✓ DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT *W 15*
- ✓ DIRECTOR, PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION
- ✓ DIRECTOR, NET ASSESSMENT
- ✓ DIRECTOR, FORCE TRANSFORMATION
- ✓ DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
- ✓ DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Space Available (Space-A) Travel for Dependents of Deployed Military Members

In recognition of the sustained efforts of the spouses and dependent children of our deployed military members, when the military member's deployment is for 120 consecutive days or more, spouses and dependent children are authorized to travel Space-A, unaccompanied in Category IV. Attachment 1 provides specific implementation rules and Attachment 2 is a sample authorization letter.

This change, effective immediately, supersedes my memo dated May 22, 2006, regarding Space-A travel for family members of deployed military members. This new policy guidance will be incorporated into DoD Regulation 4515.13-R, "Air Transportation Eligibility," which is under revision.

My point of contact is Lt Col Holmes, OADUSD (TP), 703-601-4461, extension 110.


for Jack Bell

Attachments:
As stated



Unaccompanied Dependents of Deployed Military Members

1. Unaccompanied dependents of deployed military members, including Reserve and Guard personnel, when the deployment order is for at least 120 consecutive days, are authorized to travel space-available, unaccompanied in Category IV. This includes Navy personnel assigned to a deployed ship with Permanent Change of Station orders. This authorization is only valid for the duration of the deployment period of the military member.
2. Space-A travel is authorized to/from CONUS and OCONUS locations, between CONUS locations, and within/between OCONUS theaters. All travel will be on a noninterference (nonreimbursable) basis.
3. Eligible dependents may sign-up for Space-A travel no earlier than 10 days prior to the military member's deployment. In addition, dependents are eligible to commence travel effective on the first day of military member's deployment. Space-A travel must be complete by the last day of the military member's deployment.
4. Eligible dependents must present to the air terminal personnel a verification letter signed by the member's commander verifying the member's deployment. The documentation must be in the dependents' possession during travel. Furthermore, commanders or designated representatives should inform spouses and dependents of the following: "Space-A travel program is a privilege (not an entitlement). The military does not guarantee transportation to the final destination or return travel. The military is not responsible for providing lodging, ground transportation, meals or other incidental expenses incurred during Space-A travel if flights are delayed, diverted or canceled."

SAMPLE
UNACCOMPANIED DEPENDENT OF DEPLOYED MILITARY MEMBER
VERIFICATION LETTER

Date

MEMORANDUM FOR AMC PASSENGER SERVICE AGENTS

FROM: 31st Fighter Wing
Aviano AB, Italy
APO AE 09604

SUBJECT: Dependent Verification Letter

1. The individuals listed below are dependents of MSgt Cindy D. Public, USAF, SSAN XXX-XX-XXXX.

<u>Dependents Names</u>	<u>SSAN</u>	<u>Relationship to Sponsor</u>
Richard C. Public	XXX-XX-XXXX	Husband
Richie C. Public	XXX-XX-XXXX	Son
Shaun E. Public	XXX-XX-XXXX	Son

2. In accordance with DoD 4515.13-R, "Air Transportation Eligibility," this letter verifies these dependents are authorized Space-available (Space-A) air transportation to/from CONUS and OCONUS locations, between CONUS locations, and within/between OCONUS theaters, unaccompanied only during the sponsor's deployment, starting on (state military member's departure date) and ending on (state military member's return date).

3. Dependents under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an eligible parent or legal guardian. For additional information or questions please contact our unit at DSN XXX-XXX-XXXX or Commercial (XXX) XXX-XXXX.

4. I certify the dependents listed above were briefed the following: "Space-A travel program is a privilege (not an entitlement). The military does not guarantee transportation to the final destination or return travel. The military is not responsible for providing lodging, ground transportation, meals or other incidental expenses incurred during Space-A travel if flights are delayed, diverted or canceled."

JOHN DOE, Lt Col, USAF
Commander

Attachment 2

MSgt Space A Travel Deployed Dependents.txt

***** UNCLASSIFIED// *****

Subject: SPACE AVAILABLE (SPACE-A) TRAVEL FOR DEPENDENTS OF MILITARY MEMBERS
DEPLOYED 120 OR MORE CONSECUTIVE DAYS
Originator: /C=US/O=U.S. GOVERNMENT/OU=DOD/OU=AF/OU=ORGANIZATIONS/L=SCOTT AFB
IL/OU=AMC CC (UC)/OU=AMC A4T (UC)
DTG: 042152Z Jan 08
Precedence: ROUTINE
DAC: General
To: /C=US/O=U.S. GOVERNMENT/OU=DOD/OU=AF/OU=MAIL LISTS/OU=DISTRIBUTED MAIL
LISTS/CN=AL 8332 (UC)
/C=US/O=U.S. GOVERNMENT/OU=DOD/OU=AF/OU=MAIL LISTS/OU=DISTRIBUTED MAIL
LISTS/CN=AL 8521 (UC)

UNCLASSIFIED//
UNCLAS

THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR RELEASE BY JOHN LUNDEBY, HQ AMC/A4TP, DSN
779-4593

FROM: HQ AMC SCOTT AFB IL//A4TP//

TO: AL 8332
AL 8521

SUBJECT: SPACE AVAILABLE (SPACE-A) TRAVEL FOR DEPENDENTS OF MILITARY MEMBERS
DEPLOYED 120 OR MORE CONSECUTIVE DAYS

1. NEW SPACE-AVAILABLE TRAVEL POLICY WAS RELEASED FROM THE ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR TRANSPORTATION POLICY (AUSD/TP). DEPENDENTS OF ACTIVE DUTY, GUARD, AND RESERVE MEMBERS, DEPLOYED 120 OR MORE CONSECUTIVE DAYS, ARE NOW AUTHORIZED TO FLY SPACE-A UNACCOMPANIED IN CATEGORY IV. UNTIL AMCI 24-101, VOL 14 IS UPDATED, USE THE AUSD/TP MEMO, WHICH HAS FULL DETAILS AS A SAMPLE LETTER ATTACHED.
2. THE MEMO, DATED 6 DEC 07, HAS BEEN POSTED ON THE AMC/A4TP SPACE-A WEB PAGE. <https://private.amc.af.mil/A4/asp/index.aspx?dd=/A4/a4dir/a4t/a4tp/spacea/&ti=HQ+AMC/A4TP+Passenger+Policy&mn=spaceA&md=a4dir/a4t>.
3. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT PASSENGER POLICY AT DSN 779-4593, COMM 618-229-4593, E-MAIL, AMC.A4TP@SCOTT.AF.MIL.

JOHN LUNDEBY, YC-02
CHIEF, PASSENGER POLICY BR
AIR TRANS DIV, DIR OF LOGISTICS