

Board of Contract Appeals

General Services Administration
Washington, D.C. 20405

February 21, 2006

GSBCA 16791-TRAV

In the Matter of JOHNNIE P. SAUNDERS, JR.

Johnnie P. Saunders, Jr., Norfolk, VA, Claimant.

Alice E. Halgas, Chief, Logistics Management Office, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk, VA, appearing for Department of the Army.

BORWICK, Board Judge.

A federal employee traveler on temporary duty is not entitled under regulation to reimbursement for a long-term airport parking expense that exceeds the cost of one-way taxicab fares to and from the airport.

Background

On the afternoon of September 9, 2005, the agency, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, authorized Johnnie P. Saunders, Jr., claimant, to perform emergency Hurricane Katrina relief travel from Norfolk, Virginia, to the Mississippi gulf coast, scheduled for the following morning. Claimant states that before leaving on his trip, he asked several co-workers whether long-term airport parking was a reimbursable expense. Each co-worker stated that it was.

On the morning of September 10, claimant drove his automobile to the airport and parked it in the long-term lot. Claimant returned to Norfolk on November 7 and incurred a long-term parking charge of \$413. Claimant paid the charge and submitted a travel voucher seeking reimbursement of that amount. The agency denied reimbursement because the expense exceeded the cost--\$56--of a round-trip taxi fare to the airport.

Claimant states that he did not know of the regulations and under emergency conditions there was not sufficient opportunity to gain this knowledge. Claimant pleads for relief.

Discussion

The Joint Travel Regulations (JTR) provide:

Terminal parking fees while [on] TDY [temporary duty] may be reimbursed not to exceed the cost of two one-way taxicab fares, including allowable tips.

JTR C4657-B.2. Claimant does not contest the agency's determination that the applicable taxicab fare was \$56. In accordance with the JTR, claimant's reimbursement is limited to that amount plus an allowable tip. *See Sandy A. Albertine*, GSBCA 16759-TRAV (Dec. 22, 2005). There is no authority to grant a larger reimbursement. *Albertine*. The record is not clear whether the agency has reimbursed claimant \$56 plus an allowable tip; if it has not already done so, it must reimburse claimant that amount.

Claimant may have received erroneous advice as to the extent of his reimbursement for the long-term parking, but such advice does not enlarge his entitlement. *Amos F. Jones, Jr.*, GSBCA 16305-RELO, 04-2 BCA ¶ 32,677. The Board denies the claim.

ANTHONY S. BORWICK
Board Judge