



USAREUR Release

HQ U.S. ARMY in EUROPE
Office of the Chief of Public Affairs
Unit 29351 APO AE 09014
Postfach 10 43 21 69033 Heidelberg
Tel.: 06221-57-8694
Email: ocpa.pi@EUR.ARMY.MIL

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Patriot Express eases pet travel for assigned U.S. Army in Europe personnel

HEIDELBERG, Germany – The Patriot Express, a Department of Defense-chartered air travel, originating at Baltimore/Washington International Airport (BWI) and transiting to Ramstein Airbase (RAB) makes Trans-Atlantic traveling with pets more convenient.

“During the summer months, May through September, most airlines may impose a Summer Heat Embargo and will not allow individuals to transport pets in the cargo compartment,” said Maj. Steven Czap, operations officer with USAREUR G1. “Patriot Express flights are climate controlled and can fly year round without restrictions on breeds, or air temperature and pet travel costs on PE are generally cheaper when compared to commercial carriers.”

According to the AMC Passenger Policy Branch, there is a minimum fee of \$112 for up to 70 pounds and a max fee of \$336 for a 150 pound animal to fly on the PE. This calculation is based on the pet and kennel’s combined weight and is broken down into three weight increments.

Commercial carriers calculate pet shipping cost based on cubic feet of cargo space taken up by the kennel and air space around the kennel for proper ventilation. This calculation can cost anywhere from \$395 for an average kennel to over \$1,160 for the largest commercial kennel to support a 150 pound animal for the same itinerary.

Currently, there are 10 pet spaces available on every PE Flight, with 4 missions a week, equating to 40 pet allocations per week.

When making outbound travel arrangements for pets, Service Members will have to keep in mind that they will have to make appropriate onward movement arrangements of their pets from BWI to their PCS destination. This may be harder during the period of embargo than other times of the year.

If there is no space available on the PE flight, travelers still have the option to ship their pets via commercial carrier or through air cargo (both unaccompanied). Some additional options to offset the cost of pet shipping include, but are not limited to:

- Shipping a POV to the port of Baltimore in advance of official travel and drive to PDS or leave address. This option requires coordination with the local transportation office. Source specific guidance is the JFTR, Chapter 5, U5435.
- IAW JFTR paragraph U5105, travelers who rent a car from BWI to their PDS will not be reimbursed rental car fees, but will receive mileage @ \$.555 per mile when submitting their travel voucher to DFAS.
- Transport pet via commercial or Govt. air (PE) in advance of travel and have a family member receive the pet at BWI (non-reimbursable).

About us: U.S. Army Europe is uniquely positioned to advance American strategic interests across Eurasia, building teams, assuring allies and deterring enemies. The relationships we build during more than 1,000 theater security cooperation events in more than 40 countries each year lead directly to support for U.S. actions such as in Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya.

MEDIA CONTACT: Ms. Lynn Davis, U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs 49 (0)6221-57-8694