



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3000

ACQUISITION
AND SUSTAINMENT

July 23, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Transportation of Service Animals on DoD-owned and Controlled Aircraft

Effective immediately, this guidance implements the provisions of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) final ruling that amends the DOT Air Carrier Access Act regulation on the transport of service animals by air and updates Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 382, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Air Travel.

Policy change for Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4515.13, "Air Transportation Eligibility," (January 22, 2016) (through Change 5, October 23, 2020), to incorporate applicable provisions of 14 CFR Part 382, as amended at 85 Federal Register 79742. This guidance will be incorporated in the next change to DoDI 4515.13, "Air Transportation Eligibility."

Section 10.1.a.; DELETE the last sentence.

Section 10.1.b.; DELETE the entire section and **REPLACE** with:

10.1.b. A service animal handler:

(1) Pursuant to Section 382 of Title 14, CFR, must comply with all requirements in this issuance to travel with a service animal on:

- (a) DoD aircraft; or*
- (b) Commercial aircraft chartered by the DoD or on behalf of the DoD.*

(2) Is subject to the requirements of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 that makes it a federal crime for making materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements, entries, or misrepresentations knowingly on required paperwork to secure disability accommodations, while traveling with a service animal on;

- (a) DoD aircraft; or*
- (b) Commercial aircraft chartered by the DoD or on behalf of the DoD.*

(3) May;

(a) Travel with no more than two properly trained service animals that must be able to fit in the service animal handler's lap or in the service animal handler's foot space on the

- 1. DoD aircraft, or*

2. Commercial aircraft chartered by the DoD or on behalf of the DoD.

(b) Be required to pay a pet fee and transport service animals in a pet carrier or pay for damage from service animals that do not meet all of the requirements specified in paragraphs 10.1.b.(1) to 10.1.b.(6) of this memorandum.

(4) Must;

(a) Harness, leash, or otherwise tether service animals at all times in an air terminal or on an aircraft.

(b) Keep the service animal(s) under control at all times, care for, and supervise service animals, to include toileting and feeding the service animal.

(c) Maintain control of service animals in an air terminal or on an aircraft, to include

1. Restraining service animals from relieving itself while in the air terminal or on the aircraft, or

2. Ensuring that the service animal(s) relieves itself without posing a health or sanitation issue (e.g., use a dog diaper).

(5) Provides the departing DoD passenger terminal service with the:

(a) Service animal handler's

1. Name,

2. Email address,

3. Phone number.

(b) Service animal user's name and phone number (if different from the service-animal handler's name and contact information).

(c) Service animal name and description to include the animal's appearance, height, and weight.

(d) Current service animal information to include:

1. Rabies vaccination date and the date the vaccination expires.

2. Other health issues, diseases, or conditions (e.g., fleas, ticks, or disease(s) that could potentially endanger people or other animals).

3. Veterinarian's name and phone number.

4. Name and contact information of the service animal's trainer or the training organization that trained the service animal to do work or perform tasks for the service animal user.

Section 10.1.; ADD: 10.1.e. No later than 48 hours in advance of the date and time of departure, the service animal handler must provide the departing DoD passenger terminal service a signed statement of assurance to comply with;

(1) The requirements specified in Paragraphs 10.1.b.(1) to 10.1.b.(7).

(2) A signed statement with the information in Paragraph 10.1.b.(8). An example of the signed statement is provided in Figure 1.

Section 10.1.; ADD Figure 1: Statement of Assurance

<p><i>Statement of Assurance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Service-animal handler's first and last name, e-mail address, and phone number.</i><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Service-animal user's first and last name (if different from handler) and phone number.</i><input type="checkbox"/> <i>My service-animal's name is Kaiser. Kaiser is a male Drahthaar, brown and grey wire coat, weighs 85 pounds, and is 28 inches tall.</i><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Rabies vaccination date and date vaccination expires.</i><input type="checkbox"/> <i>My service animal does not have any health issues, diseases, or conditions (e.g., fleas, ticks, or a disease(s) that could potentially endanger people or other animals).</i><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Service-animal's veterinarian's name and phone number.</i><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Kaiser is trained to do work or perform tasks to assist with my disability and to behave well in a public setting.</i><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Kaiser completed obedience training and training to perform service-animal tasks from [name of service-animal's trainer or training organization and phone number].</i><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Kaiser is a properly-trained dog who remains under the control of his handler. He does not act aggressively by biting, barking, jumping, lunging, or injuring people or other animals. He does not urinate or defecate inside buildings or vehicles.</i><input type="checkbox"/> <i>I understand that if Kaiser does not behave well in public and acts aggressively by biting, barking, jumping, lunging, or injuring people or other animals, the airline may treat my service animal as a pet, charge me a pet fee, and require that my service-animal be transported in a pet carrier.</i><input type="checkbox"/> <i>To the best of my knowledge, my service animal has not behaved aggressively or caused serious injury to another person or animal.</i><input type="checkbox"/> <i>I will keep my service animal harnessed, leashed, or tethered, at all times, in the airport and on the aircraft.</i><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Kaiser will not need to relieve himself on the aircraft. I will put a dog diaper on Kaiser if and when needed to ensure that he does not relieve himself on the aircraft and pose a health or sanitation issue.</i><input type="checkbox"/> <i>I understand that I am subject to the requirements of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 that makes it a federal crime for making false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements, entries, or representations knowingly and willfully on required paperwork to secure disability accommodations while traveling with a service animal on DoD aircraft or commercial aircraft chartered by the DoD or on behalf of the DoD.</i> <p><i>Service Animal Handler or User's Signature and Date _____</i></p>

Section 10.2. EMOTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICE ANIMALS.; **DELETE** the entire section.

Section 10.3. PETS.; **CHANGE to 10.2. PETS.** Pets are dogs and cats only. Other animals, such as horses, fish, birds, and rodents, ferrets, spiders, and other reptiles are excluded as pets under this authority because of their size, exotic nature, shipping restrictions, host nation

restrictions, and special handling difficulties which pose unavoidable safety or public health concerns.

ADD Section 10.2.d.: See Defense Transportation Regulation 4500.9-R, Part I, Chapter 103 for additional procedures for transporting pets on DoD aircraft.

Section 10.4. Other Animals.; CHANGE to 10.3. Other Animals. Other animals owned by DoD, such as military working dogs, will be moved aboard DoD aircraft as cargo. Their movement is not restricted by this issuance, provided that such transportation does not pose safety or health risks to the aircraft, crew, or passengers. Animals will be housed, caged, and shipped in a humane fashion consistent with law and accepted commercial industry standards.

GLOSSORY G.2. DEFINITIONS:

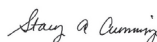
ADD: properly trained service animal. A dog that does not urinate, defecate, or act aggressively by biting, barking, jumping, lunging, or injuring people or other animals while on the aircraft or in the air terminal gate area.

DELETE: service animals. Working animals individually trained to perform specific tasks for people with disabilities, such as guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling wheelchairs, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, or performing other special tasks

ADD: service animal. A dog, regardless of breed or type, that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a qualified individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Animal species other than dogs, emotional support animals, comfort animals, companionship animals, and service animals in training are not service animals for the purposes of Part 382.3 of Title 14, CFR and this issuance.

ADD: service animal handler. Pursuant to Part 382.3 of Title 14, CFR, a passenger in air transportation who is a qualified individual with a disability who receives assistance from service animals that do work or perform tasks that are directly related to the individual's disability, or a third party who accompanies the individual with a disability traveling with a service animal (e.g., a parent of a minor child or a caretaker). The service animal handler is responsible for keeping the animal under control at all times, and caring for and supervising the service animal, to include toileting and feeding.

This memorandum will be cancelled upon publication of this policy in DoDI 4515.13.



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Stacy A. Cummings
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
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Performing the Duties of Under Secretary of
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