UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1100 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1100

COMPTROLLER

APR 14 2003

The Honorable Stephen A. Perry
Administrator
U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Mr. Perry:

In accordance with Section 2b of the "Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1998" (Public Law 105-264), I am writing to inform you that I have granted an exemption from mandatory use of the government travel card for those Department of Defense employees, military and civilian, who would otherwise use the travel charge card only for travel en route to a deployment location. This exemption is intended to lessen the chance of delinquencies on an individual traveler's charges incurred in reaching a departure point for a deployment. During a deployment, the individual traveler may be unable to properly attend to his or her financial matters. Therefore, I have provided this exemption from the mandatory use and we are discouraging the use of the travel card under such circumstances.

The additional exemption stated above is one of a number of actions the Department of Defense is taking to address delinquencies in the travel charge card program. In addition, we have engaged our senior leaders, taken a number of actions to tighten control of our charge card programs and have a number of actions still being developed. One of those actions is a data mining initiative being led by the Inspector General, DoD. While data mining will help provide early detection of possible misuse, we believe that it may also reveal additional preventive measures that would be beneficial across the government. We have included your agency in our discussions with the card-issuing banks and VISA on these topics and appreciate your help in these initiatives.

I appreciate your support through the GSA SmartPay Program. If you need additional information, please contact Ms. Jacqueline Jenkins by telephone at (703) 607-8282 or by email at jenkinsj2@osd.pentagon.mil.

Sincerely,

Dov S. Zakheim

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Exemption from Mandatory Use of the Government Travel Charge Card Program for Travel En Route to Deployments

The use of the government travel charge card by travelers en route to certain deployments during which the traveler is unable to file a travel settlement voucher in a timely manner is an inconvenience to DoD travelers. It also increases the chance of delinquencies on charges incurred by the individual while reaching a departure point for a deployment. Therefore, effective immediately, the Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation, ("DoDFMR,") Volume 9, Chapter 3, subparagraph 030302.A.2.e. is revised to read as follows: "Such Military or DoD civilian personnel as approved by the Head of a DoD Component during: (1) a period of war, (2) a national emergency declared by the President or the Congress, or (3) mobilization, deployments (including travel en route to such deployments), or contingency operations."

Service Secretaries, Agency Heads, commanders and supervisors are reminded that the "DoDFMR" provides exemptions from mandatory use of the government travel charge card that may be applicable to travel requirements outside the continental United States in support of ongoing or future operations. These exemptions apply to mobilization, deployments, contingency operations, use in foreign countries, and security concerns. I encourage the appropriate use of these exemptions based on mission requirements.

If you have any questions regarding these matters, please contact Ms. Jacqueline Jenkins, Accounting and Finance Policy and Analysis Directorate, (703) 697-8282 or by email at jenkinsj2@osd.pentagon.mil or Mr. Steven Johnson, DFAS Travel Card Program Management Office, at (703) 607-5050 or by email at steve.johnson@dfas.mil.

Dov S. Zakheim