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## DECISION



THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

FILE: B-205113

DATE: February 12, 1982

MATTER OF: Lieutenant Colonel John F. Snyder, USA

**DIGEST:** Army member seeks reimbursement for 23 days of car rental expenses he incurred because of delay in shipment of his privately owned vehicle incident to his change of station. Although the delay was unnecessary, the member may not be reimbursed car rental expenses since there is no authority in statute or regulation which would allow reimbursement.

Lieutenant Colonel John F. Snyder appeals the Claims Group's denial of his claim for car rental expenses incurred due to the delay in the shipment of his privately owned vehicle from Hawaii to New Orleans, Louisiana. Since there is no legal basis upon which this type of claim may be paid, the action of the Claims Group is sustained.

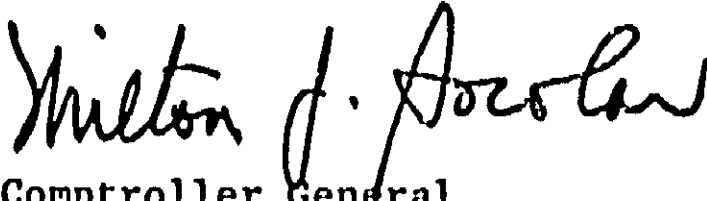
The relevant facts are undisputed and can be summarily stated as follows. In 1979, Colonel Snyder, an officer in the United States Army, was transferred from Hawaii to Florida and his orders authorized him to ship his privately owned vehicle at Government expense. Colonel Snyder's vehicle arrived at Long Beach, California, without problem but was delayed 23 days in Long Beach prior to being transhipped to New Orleans, Louisiana. It appears that the 23-day delay could have been avoided if the military department responsible for shipment had followed established procedures. Since Colonel Snyder had rented a vehicle while awaiting his privately owned vehicle, he seeks reimbursement for the automobile rental cost he incurred for the 23 days in which his vehicle was unnecessarily delayed.

The statutory authority for the shipment of a member's privately owned vehicle is contained in 10 U.S.C. 2634 (1976) which provides for the shipment by vessel of one motor vehicle incident to a member's change of permanent station at Government expense. Regulations implementing this provision are contained in Volume 1, Joint Travel Regulations, Chapter 11. However, the governing laws and regulations contain no provision for reimbursing a member for automobile rental expenses such as Colonel Snyder claims, which result from not having his own vehicle available for use. The liability of the Government is limited to that provided by the law and regulations; therefore, absent such authority, there is no legal basis on which we may

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authorize payment of this claim. See B-182326, February 27, 1975; and B-180631, November 12, 1974, where the lack of authority similarly precluded other members from recovering expenses incurred due to a delay in shipment of their privately owned vehicles.

Accordingly, the disallowance of the claim is sustained.

*for*   
Comptroller General  
of the United States