

# Inspector General of the Marine Corps Ethical Decision Game No. 4 (2-24)

## TAD considerations

by the Staff of the Inspector General of the Marine Corps

**S**cenario  
You are an administrative clerk assigned to help four Marines process their travel vouchers after a two-week temporary additional duty (TAD) trip. While processing their vouchers, you become aware of the following information:

The four Marines were part of a detachment that executed a two-week TAD trip from Camp Lejeune, NC, to Blount Island Command (BIC), Jacksonville, FL. Maj Oak was the officer-in-charge (OIC), Capt Wood was the deputy OIC, GySgt Carter was the staff non-commissioned OIC, and Pvt Elms was the administrative clerk.

For the trip, the detachment was authorized the use of one rental vehicle and full per diem with lodging at the government rate. Maj Oak reserved one rental car for himself and directed Capt Wood to get a rental car for himself while the other two Marines in the detachment were to share a third rental car with the justification that Maj Oak did not want his subordinates to drive himself or the captain because he was concerned about the perception of servitude.

While TAD, the detachment left Jacksonville at noon on Friday and traveled to Walt Disney World Resort, Orlando, FL, in their government-funded rental vehicles.

From Friday to Sunday, the four Marines stayed at Walt Disney World Resort, ate extravagant meals, purchased souvenirs at the gift shops, and charged every expense to their Government Travel Charge Cards (GTCC).

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On Sunday morning, the detachment departed Walt Disney World Resort, Orlando, and traveled in their

government-funded rental vehicles back to BIC in Jacksonville.

At the conclusion of their TAD trip, the four Marines returned to Camp Lejeune, NC, and submitted their travel vouchers claiming all the expenses they charged to their GTCCs.

### Scenario Questions

1. Was there any wrongdoing committed?
2. What policies or regulations were violated?
3. What could have been done to prevent the wrongdoing?



***EDGs involve real-world leadership challenges that usually have a significant ethical or legal component. They are typical of challenges that have confronted Marines in the past and could easily be encountered in the future. Readers should analyze the problem carefully and decide what action they would take.***

# Answers to the EDG Questions Presented on Page 100

## Potential Answers

1. Yes. Marines attempted to obtain reimbursement for personal nonofficial expenses accrued during non-duty periods in conjunction with TAD orders from Friday to Sunday. The Command Inspector General (CIG) found Maj Oak and his detachment violated the Joint Travel Regulations (JTR) when they used a government-funded rental vehicle for nonofficial purposes to drive to and from Disney World Friday to Sunday. They also incurred additional expenses to the Government when, during the non-duty portion of their TAD, the detachment selected hotel lodging more than 50 miles from the TAD location and incurred expenses that exceeded the maximum rate prescribed for the TAD location; and failed to consolidate rental car requirements among four travelers that Marines knew were participating in the same TAD. The CIG determined the Government unnecessarily paid approximately two thousand dollars in rental car, fuel, and parking expenses related to having the two additional rental cars.

2. JTR, Chapter 2: Standard Travel and Transportation Allowances: Requires use of a “rental vehicle is limited to official purposes.” It permits a traveler to obtain lodging outside the area covered by the locality rate for the TAD location for personal preference or convenience but limits per diem to the maximum rate prescribed for the TAD location. Furthermore, it permits “only the traveler booking the rental vehicle may claim expenses associated with its use.” The CIG did not identify a mission requirement for the Marines to have separate rental cars; therefore, found the Marines failed to avoid excess cost by not coordinating TAD travel as required by the JTR.

Additionally, JTR, Chapter 2, subsection 0203, Per Diem Allowance and Other Computation Rules, states the following: Per diem allowance rates are based on the TAD location, stopover point, or other authorized official duty points, but not on the lodging location. Ordinarily, per diem is based on a traveler’s TAD location at 2400 hours. If a

bers and DOD civilian employees who conduct government-funded travel to travel responsibly by using the least expensive transportation mode, parking facilities, public transportation, or rental vehicle. JTR paragraph 020209, Rental Vehicle, Note, states that “[a] rental vehicle is limited to official purposes, including transportation to and

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***The JTR also states that a traveler is financially responsible for excess costs, circuitous routes, delays, or accommodations that are unnecessary or unjustified.***

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traveler obtains lodging outside the area covered by the locality rate for the TAD location because of personal preference or convenience, then per diem is limited to the maximum rate prescribed for the TAD location.

Finally, *Marine Corps Order 4600.40B*, Appendix A, defines GTCC misuse as “Card use (charges and ATM withdrawals) outside authorized parameters (e.g., charging a gift for one’s spouse while TAD or drawing and ATM advance while not in connection with official travel or using the card for purchases of any kind while not on official travel even if the account is kept current).

3. IGMC found the proper course of action would have been to either return the rental cars to the rental company or leave it at BIC, Marines TAD location. Marines should have used personal funds to travel to and from the Orlando Resort and limited the use of their GTCC to authorized government purchases.

## Final Thoughts

The JTR requires all service mem-

bers and DOD civilian employees who conduct government-funded travel to travel responsibly by using the least expensive transportation mode, parking facilities, public transportation, or rental vehicle. JTR paragraph 020209, Rental Vehicle, Note, states that “[a] rental vehicle is limited to official purposes, including transportation to and

from duty sites, lodgings, dining facilities, drugstores, barber shops, places of worship, cleaning establishments, and similar places required for the traveler’s subsistence, health, or comfort.” Additionally, JTR paragraph 020209, Rental Vehicle, Subsection 4, states that multiple travelers are authorized to travel in the same rental vehicle. Further, JTR, Table 2-8, Rental Vehicle Expenses, states that if multiple travelers go to the same location(s), only the traveler booking the rental vehicle may claim expenses associated with its use. The JTR also states that a traveler is financially responsible for excess costs, circuitous routes, delays, or accommodations that are unnecessary or unjustified.



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