

Use of government vehicles limited on and off base

Many people who operate government-owned vehicles are unclear of where GOVs may be used and under which circumstances. The following addresses some of the most common questions. (This is not applicable to vehicles financed with non-appropriated funds.)

Q: What is vehicle misuse?

A: Use of government owned, leased, or rented vehicles for other than approved purposes. In short, it is a violation of the "For Official Use Only" marking you see on all government vehicles.

Q: What are some examples of government vehicle misuse?

A: Some examples would be members and their families using a GOV for personal social engagements or business; using a GOV for personal or government-directed household good moves, including dormitory renovation or commander-directed relocations (there are some exceptions); using a GOV for home to duty transportation unless specifically authorized; parking at commissaries, BX (including all concessions), bowling centers, officer and NCO clubs, post office, shoppette/class six store, bank or credit union, gyms or any other non-appropriated fund activity (such as the golf course) unless individual is in TDY status.

Q: What is the punishment for vehicle misuse?

A: Misuse and/or failure to prevent misuse of government owned or

leased vehicles is punishable under Title 31 U.S.C. Section 1349. Military personnel are subject to action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and civilian personnel are subject to suspension for one month.

Q: I've seen security forces personnel driving their police cars to Burger King. Is that legal?

A: AFI 24-301 paragraph 2.7.3 states transportation to and from on-base dining facilities, as a rule, is an individual responsibility. However, the installation commander may authorize personnel to take DOD owned, rented, or leased vehicles to off-base dining facilities when necessary to meet mission requirements. This authorization is restricted to personnel requiring emergency or rapid response capability (alert personnel, security forces, fire fighters).

Q: Why can't I get the aircrew bus driver to drop off and pick up my crew at Burger King? I have no problem with this when I'm at other bases.

A: Unless the aircrew is here

TDY or is on alert, transportation to and from Burger King (or any other dining facility) is an individual responsibility, and the driver is prohibited from taking you there. When the crew is at other bases, the support provided is based on their TDY status.

Q: Are there any special provisions for usage of government vehicles while TDY?

A: When authorized, a government motor vehicle may be operated in specific circumstances: between places where the member conducts official business; between places of business or lodging and eating establishments, drugstores, barber shops, places of worship, cleaning establishments, and similar places required for sustenance of the member; and/or between places of business or lodging and installation bowling centers, officer and noncommissioned officer clubs, gymnasiums or any on-base non-appropriated fund activity facilities required for the comfort or health of the member.

If used off base, usage should be restricted to reputable eating establishments within reasonable proximity to the installation. Entertainment or recreational purposes are prohibited.

Q: How do I know if I'm misusing a government vehicle?

A: When questions arise about official use of motor vehicles, they shall be resolved in favor of strict compliance with statutory provisions and policies of AFI 24-301 paragraph 2.5. Consideration should also be given to those instances which create the appearance or a perception of misuse and would reflect unfavorably on the Air Force or cause public criticism (also known as the "60 Minutes test").

Q: Is there any law or Air Force Instruction that addresses vehicle misuse?

A: Yes. Federal law (40 U.S.C. Section 491) prescribes that the Department of Defense establish an effective means to limit the use of government vehicles to official government purposes. DOD has established DOD 4500.36-R, *Management, Acquisition, and Use of Motor Vehicles* as their guidance. In turn, the Air Force has written AFI 24-301, *Vehicle Operations*, and locally there is CAFB Instruction, 24-3, *Vehicle Mishap, Abuse, and Misuse Policy*.

For more information, call 963-4056 or 963-4239. (Courtesy of the 437th Transportation Squadron)

