

Technician Topics

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The AG Speaks: On 21 January I attended a meeting of members of the BNGC Federal Credit Union. It was gratifying to see approximately 100 technicians and their wives attending the meeting. I believe that the Credit Unions of both the Air and Army National Guard and especially the payroll deduction is one of the best things financially for Kentucky National Guard Technicians and I urge all technicians to take advantage of their credit unions. A small payroll deduction now may mean financial security in the future.

In the past per diem rates for technicians travel have varied depending on the authenticating official. Applicable provisions of Joint Travel Regulations state in part, "Rates of reimbursement within legal maximum should be so fixed as to approximate the necessary costs of official travel so that travelers are neither financially rewarded nor penalized by reason of travel status". In order to comply with the regulations and ensure that all technicians performing travel receive equitable treatment, the Adjutant General has directed all authenticating officials to fix the per diem rate in accordance with costs for lodging, meals and incidental expenses prevailing within the area of travel. The aid of the individual traveler is necessary for the authenticating official to logically fix the per diem rate; accordingly, the traveler

will indicate in Item 16, DD 1610, the cost of lodging, meals and incidental expenses for one day. In no case will the total combined cost be more than \$25.00. Under unusual circumstances it may be necessary for the traveler to alter his reservations after submission of the DD Form 1610 in which case the authenticating official will take appropriate action. A sample remark for Item 16, DD Form 1610, will be as follows:

Lodging	\$12.00
Meals	8.00
Incidental Expenses	<u>2.00</u>
TOTAL	\$22.00

Items 13 and 14 of DD Form 1610 will be left blank by the traveler and will be filled in by the authenticating official.

White House Meeting gave NGAUS opportunity to lay its legislative proposals before Presidential aides and senior rep of Office of Budget and Management...Assurances that new programs, felt by NGAUS to be important to continue high strength and readiness of Guard units, will receive thorough study...Indication DoD will support effort to have statutory ceiling on technician employment raised...Key staffer on Hill says "ceiling isn't arbitrary. If requirement for more techs to maintain additional and more complex equipment can be justified, good chance of a legislative change."

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