



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3000

March 6

ACQUISITION
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL,
U.S. ARMY HUMAN RESOURCES COMMAND

SUBJECT: Request to Increase the Weight Restriction on Overseas Retiree Mail

This is in response to your memorandum regarding an increase in the mailing weight for retirees living overseas from sixteen ounces to five pounds. We have determined that the current policy which limits military retirees to less than sixteen ounces per item of mail service through the Military Postal Service should remain.

This policy was established to control the costs of mail transportation overseas, and to comply with Status of Forces Agreements with our host nations. Allowing military retirees an increase to five pounds in mail privileges would increase manpower requirements and circumvent host nation customs authorities. Although the request is for Army only, increasing weight limits would affect all Military Services. There would be no way to bill the Army separately for the additional cost that would be incurred. Currently, the other Military Services and MPSA do not support this increase.

Although the general sixteen ounce limit remains in effect, on April 10, 2003, an exception to policy was granted for medical prescriptions mailed to retirees when generated from Tri-care Mail Order Pharmacy (only). These mailings are considered U.S. Government Official Mail and therefore are not subject to host nation customs.

Earl B. Boyanton, Jr.
Assistant Deputy Under Secretary
(Transportation Policy)

cc: MPSA