

DEPLOYMENT – Storage of Privately Owned Vehicles

Make sure a good inspection is performed when the vehicle is taken in. Vehicles should be clean and in good working order when they are turned over to the storage lot personnel. The DD Form 788 can be used for this purpose. Make sure they annotate minor scratches and dings as well as larger more noticeable dents and cracks. A problem in the past has been inadequate inspections when the vehicle is dropped off and Soldiers claiming what appears to be preexisting damage (PED) at pick up. If storing at a commercial facility, they may do their own inspections and have their own forms.

Make sure inventories are prepared for POVs. Know the type and quantity of goods placed in a POV during storage are limited to things that are connected with vehicle operation such as spare tires, jacks, small quantities of tools, etc. Still it is a good idea to list the kinds and quantities of things that are placed there. The Soldier can make his own list or you can use the DD788 for this as it has space on it for this purpose.

If storage is at a commercial facility, Soldiers will need to know what is covered so they can procure additional insurance if needed.

Do not let Soldiers terminate insurance when they store vehicles. Although the “Storing Your POV” Pamphlet on the Fort Lewis Claims Division website says it is ok to do this, as well as let licenses lapse, check to see if the vehicle is being financed. Lien holders generally require comprehensive insurance for the length of the loan. If it is terminated, they will acquire insurance (expensive insurance) for you and tack it on the loan.

Vehicles stored on post should comply with local policy for registration and display current decals. If registration will lapse during the deployment, then you may want to renew the registration early.

When vehicles are picked up from storage, another thorough inspection should be done. Ensure the Soldier does a complete walk around with an inspector. Open doors, the trunk, and make sure items stored in the car are still there.

The units may want to coordinate with transportation to see if they can provide any assistance in providing training for inspectors if needed.

Soldiers should remember that there are maximum allowances regarding automobiles such as paint and stolen audio equipment. Audio equipment left in a vehicle **must be installed to the vehicle.** Loose audio equipment should be removed from the vehicle and placed in storage with baggage/household goods.

To ensure problems do not arise or are minimized, preventative measures should be done by the individuals maintaining vehicle lots, i.e. inflate flat tires and routinely start engines.

Units seeking guidance should contact Fort Drum Claims Division at 315-772-6584.