

Excellence in Practice Award

TRAILBLAZER: Transportation Lead Award

July 2026

I. Award Description

The Trailblazer Award honors an outstanding local Transportation Office (TO) Lead – either a service member or Department of War civilian – who optimizes organizational travel and logistics through exceptional leadership and technical expertise. This award recognizes leads who:

- Consistently resolve complex travel, logistics, and passenger needs, including Temporary Duty (TDY), Permanent Change of Station (PCS), and deployment support.
- Drive continuous process improvements.
- Manage critical, related transportation logistics, even if they do not process passengers directly.
- Demonstrate superb customer service, dedicated mentorship, and a lasting positive impact on overall command readiness.

II. Award Criteria (Three Core Areas)

Submit up to four bullets or narrative statements for each of the three criteria areas:

1. Mission Support and Customer Experience

- **Focus:** Ensure service members, civilians, and families experience seamless travel during deployments, TDYs, or PCS moves.
- **Example Metrics:** Volume of passengers processed, positive customer satisfaction rates, and successful short-notice deployments or emergency travel.

2. Regulatory Compliance and Technical Proficiency

- **Focus:** Demonstrate absolute mastery of the JTR and proficiency in DoD systems like DTS, GATES, and DPS.
- **Example Metrics:** Zero audit or inspection findings, accurate routing with zero unauthorized delays, mastery of visa/passport/clearance requirements, and minimal TDRs.

3. Process Improvement and Cost Stewardship

- **Focus:** Optimize local workflows, save government funds, and elevate team capability.
- **Example Metrics:** Documented cost savings or cost avoidance from route/tariff optimization, training materials, or SOPs that up-skilled peers and streamlined intake processes that reduce customer wait time.

III. Nomination Deadline: September 30, 2026

Submit your nomination by emailing the completed entry form to dodhra.mc-alex.dtmo.mbx.eip-awards@mail.mil. You may use the embedded form below or attach a Microsoft Word document. You may include up to three supporting attachments (such as metrics spreadsheets or command commendations). DTMO will collect and forward all packages to your Component representative for board consideration.

The TRAILBLAZER Award Entry Form

Candidate's Name and Place of Duty:

Candidate's Email:

Nominator's Name and Title:

Nominator's Phone and Email:

Please use the following ARI format in your response.

Write your responses in an Action-Results-Impact (ARI) format:

- Action/Accomplishment: What did the nominee do?
- Results/Benefits: Who benefited and what was the immediate improvement?
- Impact: How did the action save money, avoid costs, or improve readiness? Include specific metrics.

Strong Example: SFC Smith engineered an emergency passenger routing plan for a 120-person short-notice deployment unit; bypassed traditional commercial bottlenecks to secure charter travel within 24 hours of notification; and prevented a critical training delay saving the command \$15,000 in short-notice booking fees.

- Action: Engineered emergency passenger routing.
- Result: Bypassed bottlenecks to secure charter travel within 24 hours.
- Impact: Prevented training delay and saved \$15,000.

X Weak Example: SFC Smith did a great job helping a deployment unit get their travel sorted out quickly under a tight deadline. This statement is too vague and lacks specific, measurable actions or outcomes.

Only include activities and achievements from Fiscal Year 2026—October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Avoid uncommon, unnecessary, or unfamiliar acronyms. Criteria will be weighted as follows: a = 40% b = 35% c = 25%

1. Provide a summary of the candidate's transportation program. Explain the size and scope of their travel support. List any local, base, or major command awards received during FY26.

2. For each of the following focus areas, describe how the candidate supports the transportation program and the mission. Include the results of their impact.

A. Mission Support and Customer Experience (40%)

B. Regulatory Compliance and Technical Proficiency (35%)

C. Process Improvement and Cost Stewardship (25%)