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The who, what, where, when and why behind PCS season

by
JENNA BIGHAM

Aerotech News

The term Permanent Change of Station, or PCS as it's more commonly known by service members and their families, means more than just a change of station.

It means a change of location, living situation, work environment, and possibly a change of schools, medical care providers, employment, and so much more if you're a family member PCSing with a service member.

As with many things, there is a season for change, and PCS season is one of them. The term "PCS season" loosely describes the time of year when service members most often PCS, and it falls roughly between the months of May-August. This is because, like many other families making a major move, moving in the summer months may make the move less disruptive. A move in the typical PCS season means children can usually finish their school year in place and start fresh at their new location, the weather is optimal for travel, etc.

Although a move may not make sense on the surface, a move allows the oppor-

tunity to grow and develop in new roles throughout one's career, fill a position after someone has retired or separated, and may provide an opportunity to see new places.

Ultimately, the PCS aims to place the right person in the right job when the need

arises, and in the case of the military, that means moving roughly 400,000 service members every year.

Efficiency is key to any PCS. Learn more in this special issue, and explore helpful resources like www.militaryonesource.mil to make your PCS move a success.



Courtesy graphic

— Useful Phone Numbers —

Edwards AFB, Calif.

Airman's Attic – 661-277-2246
Finance – 661-277-4550
Housing Management Office – 661-277-4506
Corvias Military Living – 661-385-6060
Family Support Center – 661-277-0723
Housing Maintenance (Corvias) – 661-385-6501
Transportation Management Office – 661-277-7888

Nellis AFB, Nev.

Airman & Family Readiness Center – 702-652-3327
Airman's Attic – 702-652-4765
Financial Service Office – 702-652-4844
Housing Management Office – 702-652-1840
Military Family Housing – 888-622-8106
Temporary Lodging, Nellis Inn – 702-652-2711
Transportation Management Office – 702-652-6683

Creech AFB, Nev.

Airman & Family Readiness Center – 702-404-0864

Luke AFB, Ariz.

Airman & Family Readiness Center – 623-856-6550
Fighter Country Inn – 623-856-6378
Housing Management Office – 623-388-3515
Housing Referral Office (off base housing) – 623-856-7643
Medical – 623-856-2273
School Liaison – 623-856-6378
Transportation Management Office – 623-856-6424

Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

Welcome Center – 520-228-1077
Farewell Center – 520-228-1077
Airman & Family Readiness Center – 520-228-5690
Housing Management Office – 520-228-5705
Soaring Heights Housing – 520-745-5024
Temporary Lodging – 520-748-1500
TLF – 520-228-3230
Transportation Management Office – 520-228-4816



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What to do now for a successful PCS later

by
JENNA BIGHAM

Aerotech News

Assignment notifications can come with a variety of emotions like excitement, nervousness, or maybe even worry. In general, a PCS or permanent change of station comes with at least some level of stress, whether you're a seasoned mover or this is your first time PCSing.

To minimize stress and maximize success, get started today on your moving checklist. This checklist is different from your official out-processing checklist that must be completed prior to your move. Instead, this checklist includes items you may not have thought of, but need to consider to make your move easier on everyone.

Money to move

Many expenses related to your PCS will likely be reimbursed, but any time you face a major change, it can come with additional unexpected expenses. Start saving and setting aside money for your move to avoid being caught off-guard with the stress that sudden increases in cost can produce. Things like utility deposits, eating out while traveling and getting established in a new home, moving supplies, animal transport or boarding, housing security deposits, cleaning supplies, and many other small items all add up to additional money needed that might not be part of your typical monthly budget.

Housing

Whether you're arriving or leaving, housing options are a staple and it's best not to wait until the last minute on this one.

If moving to a new location, you'll need to determine whether you want to live on base or off base. On-base living may be favorable depending on housing costs in that area, as the cost can vary dramatically from base to base. The cost of living on base will not go up and down like the local housing market might. If selecting on-base housing, you may consider calling the housing office right away to get on their waitlist. If moving off base, it may be helpful to call the housing assistance officer, as every installation has one available to assist with rental properties and questions unique to that area.

If you are hoping to purchase a home, the current market throughout much of the U.S. is very competitive, so contacting a local expert may be the first step. With increasing real estate values and interest rates, purchasing may not seem like an option — but exploring the housing market with the help of an experienced real estate professional may bring to light some attractive options for securing living space for you, and your family, if you are moving with dependents.

If preparing to move out of your home, consider the timing. If renting, how much notice does your landlord require? Will you need to secure temporary lodging after vacating your house or apartment? Look into temporary lodging facilities on your installation for availability and the

PCS Guide

10 Tips for an Easier PCS Move

- 1** Forget about the PMM move if you have a baby on the way or small children around. No one is invincible.
- 2** Don't put too much stock in your orders, as they may change at the last minute. Wait on large shipments until you are sure about your assignment.
- 3** Grab a hard copy of medical records for you and your family. Yes, they're supposed to move with you, but it will save a headache if you have them on hand.
- 4** Don't rent out your home from far, far away. Unless you can drive to property within an hour, renting out your place is going to be a major pain.
- 5** Don't go back to work too soon. Make sure that everything is settled before doing so.
- 6** Know where your pets are. You don't want them packed in with your other belongings.
- 7** Tape furniture parts to their corresponding furniture so you don't lose them.
- 8** Empty your trash can or movers will pack it up with whatever is in it.
- 9** Know that with either movers or the Do-It-Yourself approach it is almost impossible to prevent something from breaking.
- 10** Research. Find out everything you can about where you're going.

Courtesy graphic

best fit for your family.

If looking to sell a home prior to PCSing, research the average time it takes to sell a home in your area. Some cities across the country are seeing homes sell in a matter of days, and other places may take weeks or months. If you are selling and left with more than the 10 days of allotted TLF lodging, you may want to consider short-term rentals through companies like Airbnb or VRBO, or apartments with month-to-month leases in your local area. The listings can vary dramatically, so read the fine print for each, to ensure it will fit your needs and the costs will not exceed the amount you have budgeted for the time spent living there.

Pet travel and housing arrangements

If moving with pets, several additional steps are needed. Travel with a copy of veterinary medical records. Look for a veterinary provider in your new location, in case care is needed upon arrival. Before moving out of your current residence, check with the temporary lodging facility for the availability of pet-approved rooms or schedule off-base

pet boarding if needed. If traveling overseas, be sure to check flight availability, associated costs, and procedures needed among other things that go along with traveling with pets, as detailed at militaryonesource.com

Address updates and mail forwarding

The military knows where you are, but do the other companies with whom you have accounts know where you're moving? In addition to forwarding your mail, which can easily be setup at USPS.com, make sure to update your address with all individual companies you do business with. This may include banks, credit card companies, cellular service and internet providers, auto, homeowners or renters insurance, and more.

Schooling options

If moving with kids under the age of 18, you will likely be looking for a new school for them. A great place to start the process is with the installation's school liaison. Every installation has a school liaison who can provide a list of schools in the area. Rural locations may only have one or two options, while other areas may have several public schools,

public charter schools, private schools, home school co-ops and more to choose from. It may take more time selecting the right fit for your child. Start the search early and make sure to bring copies of their records, properly disenroll from their current program, and enroll in their new school.

And remember, whichever school you select means change for your child, so connecting with counselors or children in similar situations may be important for your child. Check with your installation's military youth center or visit Military Kids Connect for more ways to connect with an online community of military youth.

Medical records and care providers

Begin by reaching out to your TRICARE Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator to see what coverage you have, and what may be needed or changed when establishing care at your new installation. Transferring medical records may seem easy if you've only been seen by on-base providers, but if you have visited specialty clinics and other off-base providers, it may take more effort to transfer everything. Request your records in advance to avoid last-minute holdups.

Depending on your situation, if authorized, also begin the process of finding medical providers in your new location. Some areas may have few providers taking new patients, and wait times can become lengthy. Do your research now, to save yourself time later.

Spouse Employment

Find career information, resources, scholarships for continuing education, and more with the DOD's Spouse Education and Career Opportunities program. Also connect with your gaining installation's Family Readiness Center for additional support and information for the local area and available positions on base.

Lodging accommodations

You've moved and sold your house or have yet to find one, depending on your situation. Don't make the mistake of forgetting to schedule lodging for the time period immediately before leaving your installation, while traveling, or when arriving at your new installation. While finding off-base accommodations isn't always difficult if on-base lodging is full, every area is different. Trying to arrange a last-minute place to stay will only add unneeded stress to your PCS. Plan ahead.

Vehicle arrangements

While completing your official out-processing checklist, you will likely ship your car or drive it to your next destination. However, once you've arrived, you'll also need to ensure you've properly registered your vehicle and updated any necessary documents (See Vehicle Shipping, Page 20).

Make copies of important documents.

- PCS orders
- All personal identification documents: military identification/common

App for military resources available to service members, families

by
DAVID VERGUN

DOD News

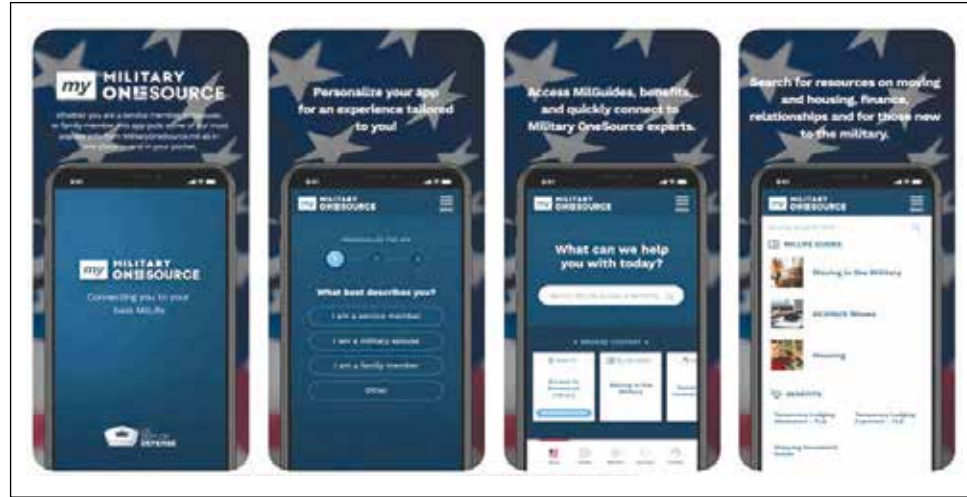
The “My Military OneSource” mobile app is now available for service members and their families for free by downloading it on Google Play or Apple’s App Store.

The purpose of Military OneSource is to put as many resources as possible in one place, so people have an easier time finding what they need, said Erika Slaton, Military Community Support Programs associate director. The app makes it more convenient when users are away from their computers and are only carrying a smartphone.

Each year, Military OneSource connects hundreds of thousands of service members and their families to resources to help improve their quality of life, Slaton said.

Resources offered include:

- Child care options
- Relationship counseling
- Domestic violence awareness
- Parenting tips
- A Morale, Welfare and Recreation Program digital library
- Tips for communicating in a long-distance relationship
- Moving and housing
- Tax services



Courtesy graphic

- Confidential help
- Financial and legal assistance
- Education and employment
- Confidential non-medical counseling
- Health and wellness
- Benefits finder
- Recreation, travel and shopping
- Installation program directory

The user-friendly design of the new “My Military OneSource” app is based on comprehensive data analysis and user input, including in-depth interviews with more than 300 service members, spouses and service providers; analysis of user

satisfaction data input from military leadership and program managers; and a thorough review of best practices, Slaton said.

“To ensure the My Military OneSource mobile app continues to meet the needs of the military community, we will evaluate user feedback to help inform ongoing updates and enhancements, as well as new features,” Slaton said, while also adding that feedback is particularly important to improving the site.

Besides the app, users can visit the Military OneSource website on their com-

puter. There’s also a toll-free call center manned 24/7/365.

Users can trust the “My Military OneSource” app, website and call center because it guarantees their confidentiality with a few mandatory exceptions, Slaton said. Military OneSource must disclose illegal activities and situations to prevent harm to self or others.

Those eligible for Military OneSource are Defense Department service members, including National Guard and Reserve irrespective of activation status, DOD expeditionary civilians, Coast Guard members when activated for the Navy, survivors, veterans up to 365 days post-separation or retirement, and family members of all the categories listed.

Military OneSource is a DOD-funded program that is both a call center and website that provides free comprehensive information, support and resources on every aspect of military life.

Military Community and Family Policy is directly responsible for establishing quality-of-life policies and programs that help our guardians of country, their families and survivors be well and mission-ready. Military OneSource is the gateway to programs and services that support the everyday needs of the 5.2 million service members and immediate family members of the military community. These DOD services can be accessed 24/7/365 around the world.



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What kind of PCS am I making?

by
STUART IBBERSON

Aerotech News

When you get your orders, you will find out whether you have a short tour, long tour, unaccompanied or accompanied assignment.

If you are authorized to take your family with you, that is an accompanied assignment; if you are not, you have an unaccompanied assignment.

Typically, unaccompanied assignments last for 12-18 months and are overseas. Accompanied assignments can be stateside, or overseas.

There are times when a PCS move can cause hardships to military families. There are, however, programs and steps you can take ahead of time to alleviate some of the worry.

PCS assignments can include Dual Military/Joint Spouse, Humanitarian, the Exceptional Family Member Program, Divorce/Co-Parenting options, and the High School Senior Assignment Deferral program.

It is important to note, that as of April 2022, the Base of Preference program has ended.

Follow-on assignments

Service members who have orders for a dependent-restricted short tour, and it is your second or later assignment, you can apply for a follow-on assignment.

Follow-on assignments are designed to provide family stability, as well as to decrease PCS costs for the government.

If you are authorized a follow-on assignment, your family can either stay at your current stateside

location and move when your short tour is complete, or move to the follow-on location.

For more information, visit myPers.af.mil.

Dual-military couples/Joint Spouse Assignments

PCS season can be a time of stress when both spouses are active duty. However, the Air Force makes every effort to assign these couples at the same base, or at bases close enough to maintain a joint home.

The key to making sure you stay together is planning.

Couples need to present their marriage certificate to the Military Personnel Section, to update their marital status in the Military Personnel Data System and Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. They also need to update their joint spouse intent code and assignment preferences at myPers.af.mil to indicate their intentions as a couple and whether or not they wish to be reassigned together.

Humanitarian Assignments

If any service member is experiencing a long-distance family emergency, they may qualify for a humanitarian assignment.

The Humanitarian Reassignment and Deferment Program, run by the Air Force Personnel Center, assists active-duty airmen in resolving severe, short-term problems involving a family member, while they continue to meet the needs of the Air Force. If they qualify, those troops can use the program for an extra military move or to stay at their current location.

See KIND, Page 6

PCS Guide

PCS season can be a stressful time, especially if you have a family to think about. The following information may help you answer the most important question:
How am I going to do this?

Types of PCS

- A Government Contract**, where your local Traffic Management Office (TMO) will verify your orders and contract a commercial moving company to pack, ship, and unpack your stuff.
- Personally Procured Move (PPM) or Do-It-Yourself**, allowing you to pack, ship, and unpack all of your own stuff. In exchange the government reimburses 95% of commercial move costs.

Or a combination of BOTH.

Advantages of PPM Move:

- Reimbursement of 95% of commercial move costs
- PPM applicants receive additional time to handle a move.
- PPM program allows you to take control at every step of the move.

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Courtesy graph

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Now that's True Tucson

DESERT DIAMOND CASINOS

An Enterprise of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

READERS' CHOICE
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FAVORITE
Arizona Daily Star

Military housing options in a difficult market made easy

by
JENNA BIGHAM

Aerotech News

A permanent change of station for a service member means making the decision to buy, sell, or rent a house every few years. Considering the ever-changing markets across the country, the ease of making this decision may vary.

When it's time to PCS, one of the first things to evaluate is your basic allowance for housing, along with your unique financial situation. To calculate the BAH for your new location, visit defensetravel.dod.mil

After calculating what your allowance will be for your rank, with or without dependents, you will need to look at you and/or your family's needs. Is base housing a good fit or would you be happier off-base?

Base housing

Living on the installation may be a good fit and provides an opportunity to be closer to those in similar situations for a greater sense of community. Additionally, it could mean a shorter commute to work, being closer to base services and amenities, and more. This living arrangement may also be a great fit if the housing costs in the local off-base area could end up costing more than your monthly BAH.

On-base living also means lower upfront and monthly costs, as applicants do not pay an application fee, security deposit or pet deposit. When living in base housing, utilities like water, sewer, gas, and electric are also included, along with trash, recycling and pest services. Housing maintenance is taken care of, and playgrounds, pools and outdoor recreational spaces are often included as well.

When considering the perks of living on



Courtesy photo

base, this may be a great fit for those new to the military or the most seasoned service members. Contact the housing office for more information on your installation as wait times, amenities, etc. may vary from installation to installation.

Off base housing

If on-base living is not available, or you simply want to explore the surrounding area with an apartment or home outside the gates, consider your monthly BAH and how far it will stretch. Both purchase and rental prices have gone up tremendously in much of the U.S. over the last two years, and chances are the community you're moving to, if stateside, has been affected. Where some areas have seen increases from 10-20 percent, others have seen increases of 30 percent or more.

If purchasing is off the table, consider starting your rental search with a visit or phone call to your installation's housing assistance office to obtain a list of options in your area. Once you settle on a desired area, make sure the rental meets your

needs and falls within budget. Don't forget to include the security deposit, potential pet fees, monthly rent payment, internet, electricity, gas, water and sewer, trash and recycling, fuel, or monthly public transportation costs, etc. Some expenses may be included in the rent but other agreements may not include anything, so be sure to read the fine print and ask questions before committing to a home or apartment lease. Another issue to consider could be the length of the lease versus the length of your orders.

Purchasing is another alternative to living on base and may be the right fit for you and/or your family. A quick search online will provide a rough idea of market prices in the area, and then consulting with a professional for specifics may be in your best interest. As mentioned previously, home prices have increased significantly in some areas. Housing markets have become competitive, with more people moving and looking to buy following pandemic-related changes to the economy, remote work

options, housing availability, increased investor purchases, etc.

Where some service members have had success purchasing, others have faced challenges in buying a home. Every situation is different and must be carefully examined. Current interest rates should be factored into your budget when running the numbers, and can vary based on credit score, debt-to-income ratio, credit history and more.

If financing, home buyers should compare 15 to 30-year mortgages, fixed rate vs. adjustable rate mortgages, total closing costs, insurance needs, property taxes, and monthly payments. The cost of home repairs and typical upkeep expenses should also be estimated, in addition to looking at long-term plans for resale or renting if another PCS comes up.

A representative at the Airman and Family Readiness Center may be available to assist with budgeting, and real estate professionals in the local area could help with housing-specific questions.

Consider all housing options while deciding to rent or buy, and when looking for an interim space to stay while moving to or from a new installation. The first place will likely be your installation's lodging facility. Websites such as [Airbnb.com](https://www.airbnb.com) or [VRBO.com](https://www.vrbo.com) may be helpful as well. However, keep in mind not all options are reimbursable and service members should always check with their local finance office prior to booking. Each listing should also be read thoroughly, as expectations and amenities vary greatly, and ensuring a good fit for your short-term housing needs is vital.

To help plan your move, evaluate housing options, find cost calculators and more, visit militaryonesource.mil.

LATER (from Page 3)

access cards, marriage and birth certificates, passports, and Social Security cards

- Medical records, including immunization records for family and pets

- Leave and Earnings Statements

- Proof of car insurance and registration (If you are returning from an overseas assignment, have proof from your overseas insurance company that you were insured during the time you were out of country. If you cannot prove insurance, you will be considered "uninsured" for that time period and will be required to pay much higher premiums when obtaining insurance domestically.)

- School records
- Inventory list of household goods shipment

- Any bills of sale pertaining to vehicles, especially if you purchased the car overseas (You will need these to register your car.)
- Your sponsorship package

Research fun in the surrounding area

Moving does not always leave a lot of room for fun, but be sure to include some recreation in your planning. Whether enroute to your new location or once you've arrived, complete the necessary in-processing, then relax a little and enjoy yourself. You've worked hard to get there, now it's time to take in the scenery and find the fun. Reach out to your local travel and ticket office or the outdoor recreation office for enjoyable ideas and ways to explore without breaking the bank.

While this checklist is not all inclusive, these steps to plan ahead now will help with a successful PCS later. For everything else and everything in between, be sure to visit Plan My Move at militaryonesource.mil to create your own customized checklist tailored to meet your needs for where you're leaving and where you're going, and who is going with you.

KIND (from Page 5)

The definition of "family member" for the Humanitarian Program is limited to spouse; child; parents, to include in-laws and stepparents; person in loco parentis; or other persons actually residing in the household who are dependent on the Airman for more than half of their financial support.

An important thing to remember is that the Air Force doesn't pay for a humanitarian move. Additionally, there must be a vacancy at the gaining base, and the Airmen must meet retainability requirements for a PCS move.

Contact your personnel center for more information.

Exceptional Family Members Program

If you have a family member who has specialized medical or educational needs, you may qualify for an assignment under the EFMP Program.

www.militaryonesource.mil can help service members navigate the program with the EFMP & Me tool. It helps the service member quickly navigate services, connect with resources and advocate for yourself or your family member with special needs — anytime, anywhere.

Designed for military families with special needs — with the caregiver in mind — EFMP & Me can be used by both families enrolled in EFMP and those who are eligible to enroll. The website also gives EFMP Family Support providers and military leaders another tool to guide families to the resources they need.

EFMP & Me can help you understand and find medical and educational resources, offers step-by-step support for EFMP enrollment, PCS preparation, deployment and other military life moments, and offers convenient 24/7 access to EFMP resources and services from a range of programs.

Divorce and co-parenting

Airmen who are parents have the ability to defer an assignment, or be stationed near their children with a court-ordered child custody decree.

Assignment authorities are able to consider requests for an assignment or deferment to a location near their children, even if the co-parents are not married.

Service members are still required to fill valid manning requirements, perform the duties for which they are trained, and meet all PCS eligibility requirements without waivers.

Service members who are named as a parent, either biological or adopted, and have a court-ordered child custody agreement are eligible to apply. Assignment matches will be made when possible, and must meet the best needs of the Department of the Air Force.

In order to apply, Airmen can submit their application through myPers.af.mil.

High School Senior Assignment Deferment

The High School Senior Assignment Deferment is designed to increase stability for military families with dependent children entering their senior year of high school. Members who meet eligibility requirements can defer an assignment for up to one year. HSSAD requests are considered on a case-by-case basis, with the goal of approving as many requests as possible while meeting mission needs. For more information on the HSSAD program, contact your local Force Support Squadron, or visit the MyPers.af.mil website.

For more information, visit www.militaryonesource.mil, mypers.af.mil — and make sure your personal information such as marital status etc. is up-to-date.

TIMES CHANGE – TRUTH DOES NOT



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What allowances am I entitled to when making a PCS move?

by
STUART IBBERSON

Aerotech News

From the moment you raise your right hand, moving is an inevitable part of military life.

And whether it is your first PCS or your 10th, there are certain pay and allowances you are entitled to. Some allowances vary based on rank and marital status, while some are fixed by location.

Other than advances in pay or housing allowances, most costs involved with your PCS move will be reimbursed once you have completed your move.

Either way, you should be aware of what you are entitled to.

Travel and relocation allowances

DOD provides travel and relocation allowances to help you with moving expenses.

- **Per Diem:** Per diem will reimburse you for meals, incidentals and lodging while you are traveling to your new duty station. Per Diem varies from country-to-country, state-to-state, and even communities within countries and states. For current rates, visit the Defense Travel Management Office at <https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/perdiemCalc.cfm>

- **Monetary Allowance in Lieu of Transportation:** MALT is used as mileage reimbursement when you or your family drives to your new duty station.

- **Dislocation allowance:** DLA partially reimburses you for miscellaneous moving

costs and is usually paid once per PCS.

- **Advances:** You may be authorized an advance of basic pay or allowances such as, Basic Allowance for Housing or Overseas Housing Allowance. These can be requested to help cover moving related expenses. Before taking an advance, be sure you understand the ins and outs.

Temporary lodging allowance and expense

- **Temporary Lodging Allowance:** TLA partially defrays the cost of temporary lodging and meals while you wait for housing outside the continental U.S., for a maximum of 60 days upon arrival and 10 days when leaving. Some exceptions can apply.

- **Temporary Lodging Expense:** TLE partially reimburses the cost of temporary lodging and meals during moves with the continental U.S., and is payable for five or 10 days, depending on circumstances.

Dislocation Allowance

Some service members may be entitled to a Dislocation Allowance.

A DLA partially reimburses service members for incurred household moving expenses. The household move must be required by a PCS, evacuation or — in some cases — ordered for the government's convenience. Generally, only one DLA is permitted in a fiscal year.

Below, find the answers to some frequently asked questions about DLA.

Any service member moving their household on PCS orders and who is not assigned to live

in single-type government housing — such as the dormitories or barracks — should receive a DLA.

Basically, if you receive a Basic Allowance for Housing, or are above pay grade E-5 and choose to not stay in single-type government quarters, you will probably receive a DLA.

However, if you are in an E-5 or below and are assigned to live in the dormitory or barracks, you will not be eligible.

Nor will you receive DLA when moving from your civilian home (the place you lived when you entered active duty) to your first duty station — unless you move with dependents. And finally, DLA is not authorized when leaving active duty service.

DOD travel perks

Service members and families can also take advantage of these travel perks:

- **DOD Dine Smart Traveler Rewards** is a program that allows DOD travelers to earn points every time they use their Government Travel Charge Cards to pay for meals at participating restaurants while on official travel. Rewards points can then be redeemed for gift cards. With a one-time enrollment, your Government Travel Charge Card is linked to the Traveler Rewards program, and your points are automatically tracked. Since DOD policy requires travelers to use GTCCs for all official travel expenses, including meals, it's easy to participate. The program includes an available mobile app to find nearby participating restaurants. To learn more about DOD Dine

Smart, visit <https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/dinesmart.cfm>.

- **TSA PreCheck:** TSA PreCheck is free for DOD civilians and service members. This includes reservists, National Guardsmen, members of the Coast Guard, and students at the U.S. service academies. When booking travel, service members just need to insert their CAC ID number in the Known Traveler Field and they automatically qualify for TSA PreCheck. This works for official travel, like PCS, or for leisure travel. Dependents ages 12 and under can go through airport security with a participating traveler.

Shipment of household goods

The government pays for you to ship your household goods, unaccompanied baggage, privately owned vehicle, and professional gear. Weight limits are based on your rank and dependent status. For more information, see Page 14.

Personal financial management programs

Making a PCS move can cause financial headaches, and leave many service members scratching their heads. Experts at your local personal financial management services office can help, as they offer one-on-one counseling, classes, education and additional information to help service members and their families successfully manage their personal financial responsibilities.

As with all PCS-related matters, contact your Transportation Management Office as soon as possible, and visit www.militaryonesource.mil.



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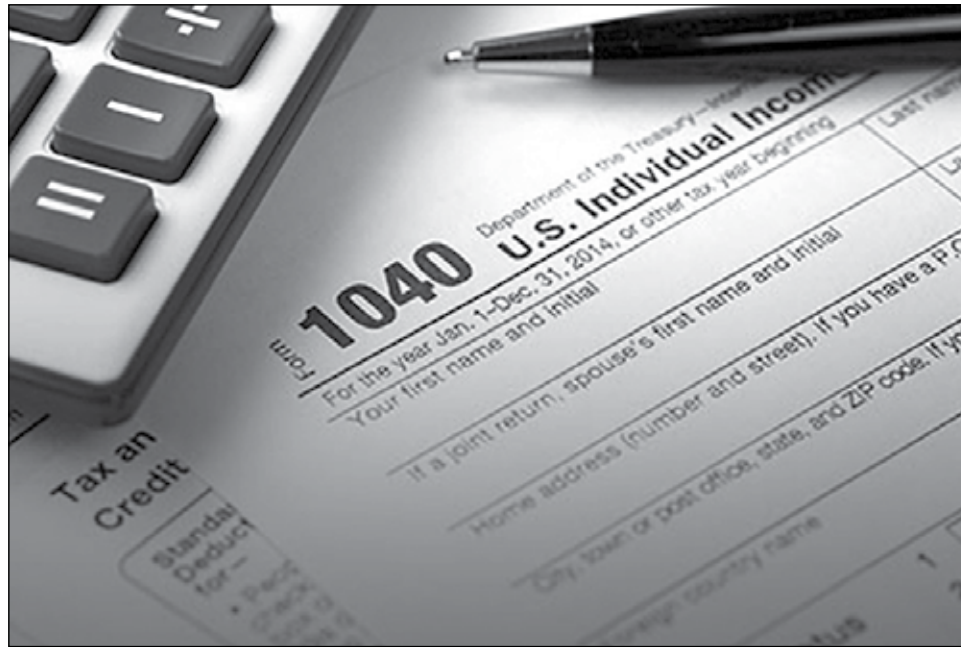
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Are PCS expenses tax deductible? Sometimes!

by
STUART IBBERSON

Aerotech News



Courtesy photo

While many PCS expenses are paid for or reimbursed by the military, you may be able to deduct some non-reimbursable expenses from your federal taxes.

The key is to keep all your receipts, so when you file your travel claim or your taxes, you will have them handy.

For more information and examples, check out IRS Tax Topic 455, Moving Expenses.

Only active duty military members who are PCSing or, in some cases, their unaccompanied family members, can deduct moving expenses. This includes moving to your first duty station, or when separating or retiring from the military.

MilitaryOneSource.com's MilTax's tax preparation and e-filing software is available from mid-January through mid-October, and can help with filing your taxes electronically – for free.

So what expenses can be deducted?

In general, you can deduct unreimbursed expenses directly related to the moving and storage of your household goods, as well as costs (subject to approval) related to travel from your old location to a new one. This includes expenses for the taxpayer and any member of their household.

Among the costs you can deduct as part of your move are:

- Packing materials
- Shipping of vehicles
- Transporting pets
- Stopping and starting essential utilities
- Some storage fees
- One night's lodging at your old loca-

tion if your furniture has been moved

- First night's lodging at your new location

- Moving of household goods, whether by car, container, or via a moving contract

To be considered a reasonable travel expense, the route you take, for example, must be the shortest, most direct one

available from your previous home to your new one.

What expenses cannot be deducted?

The following costs are not deductible:

- Meals
- Temporary lodging after the first night you arrive at your new location
- Vehicle registration
- Driver's licenses
- Purchasing or renting a new home
- Other expenses for stopovers, side trips or pre-move house-hunting expenses

The IRS has a wealth of additional information to guide you with deducting moving expenses.

How to report deductible expenses

Deductible moving expenses are reported on IRS Form 3903, and any deduction on that form is reported on your regular federal income tax return.

The IRS website provides additional information on the forms used to report moving expenses.

Reimbursements

Many moving expenses are fully or partially covered by military allowances. You cannot claim any expenses paid for by the military, whether paid directly or reimbursed. For example, you cannot deduct mileage and lodging that was reimbursed under the military's Monetary Allowance in Lieu of Transportation, typically called mileage, or the PCS Per Diem rates.

Let it go — and tame the clutter

by
KC RAWLEY

Aerotech News

So, you've received or you're expecting PCS orders.

As you look around your home, the realization hits: you've got too much stuff.

Being in one place for a while can mean accumulating clutter you don't even know you *have* until you contemplate moving it all.

When you know your weight allowance, you may have to force yourself to part with the outgrown sports equipment, clothes, accessories, books, games, gadgets you just "had to have" from Amazon, as well as other COVID-cabin fever inspired purchases.

"De-cluttering" is in vogue these days, mostly because of Marie Kondo, author of *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, even among people who don't have to move their household across the country.

But if holding possessions in your hand one-by-one and asking yourself if it "sparks joy" in you sounds too metaphorical for you, there are other ways to make that weight limit.

Kondo has a point: American homes are filled with items we don't need but are loathe to part with. One in 10 U.S. households pay for storage space and 25 percent of people with two car garages can't fit even one car inside, according to *BecomingMinimalist.com*.

You don't have to be a hoarder or a Great Depression survivor to have diffi-

culty letting go of physical possessions. In a TEDEd video, Christian Jarrett explains *Why are we so attached to our things?* It turns out that the "endowment effect" — the idea that we value things more highly when we own them — runs deep in the human race and starts early. Like, when we are babies.

The "sunk cost fallacy" is another stumbling block to de-cluttering — the idea that since we paid good money for something, we shouldn't get rid of it because we might need it.

Perhaps the hardest are "family heirlooms," items of little intrinsic value that belonged to people we love who are no longer with us, and we cling to these things because of the memories tangled up with them. But keeping the items won't bring our loved ones back.

Truly paring down our "stuff" begins in our heads. Know that the problem is not just yours, and that understanding these psychological quirks can help us overcome them.

The often-used phrase "If you haven't worn or used it in a year, get rid of it," is a good place to start.

Most organizational experts suggest going through your possessions room-by-room with three boxes marked: "keep," "give away," and "seasonal/put in storage."

Keep is obvious. These are things you use frequently or every day. Tell yourself that to keep it, it must have a home. You will have to find a place to put it away, and then *do it*. Consistently. Put like things together.



Courtesy graphic

Get rid of can mean several things: throw away, give away, or sell. If it's broken and you want to keep it, repair it right away. If you can't repair it, or repairs would be inordinately expensive, throw it away. Don't say, "I'll get around to fixing it." Search your heart and realize that you probably won't fix it.

Make room in your life for new things. If you keep saying you'll fix it, you'll never replace it, because you already have one.

Be ruthless with yourself.

If it works and has lots of life left in it, but you want a new one or don't use it, give it away. Often you can get a better version of whatever it is when you get where you're going.

On-base Airman's Attics and thrift stores provide items at low or no-cost to families who need them and can always use donations and volunteers.

If you have time, selling on Amazon Marketplace, Facebook or eBay has never been easier. And who couldn't use a little extra cash?

Clothes: The average woman in the United States has enough clothes to wear a new outfit daily for a month, but

we never do; do we ladies? The 80/20 rule has so many applications, and here it says we wear 20 percent of our wardrobe 80 percent of the time. If we tend to change body size, it's even worse. We may have wardrobes at three different sizes, but would we honestly want to wear those Size-10 styles if we ever got back there again? Probably not.

And gentleman: how many T-shirts commemorating 10-K runs, auto races, concerts by now-defunct rock bands, microbreweries, and Triple-A baseball teams does one man need?

Outgrown kids' clothes can be sold in consignment shops. Look around for a clothes-swap or organize one yourself if you have enough lead time.

Kitchen equipment: Look for items that can do double duty, and see what you can do without. If you have an Insta-Pot, do you really need a slow-cooker? Not really. Ask yourself if you really entertain enough to warrant packing fancy china, chafing dishes, and separate serving dishes? If you do, great. If not, consider that there are stories all over the internet that Millennials aren't buy-

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What should I do with a

by
STUART IBBERSON

Aerotech News

You've got your orders in hand, and you are excited about your new assignment.

But as you look around your living space, you start to wonder — what am I going to do with all this stuff?

Whether PCSing from one stateside base to another, or from stateside to an overseas location, there are multiple options available.

You may first want to consider downsizing — a PCS move is the perfect opportunity to sort through your possessions and decide what to keep, what to donate and what to throw away (see related article on Page 10).

The government will pay to move your household goods, your unaccompanied baggage, your professional gear, and privately owned vehicle (see related article on Page 20) to your new duty assignment.

However, the amount of household goods (by weight) you are allowed to ship is determined by The Joint Travel Regulations [<https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Docs/perdiem/JTR.pdf#page=268>] issued by the Defense Department. The weight allowance will vary depending on rank and whether you are single or have dependents.

More information is available at the Transportation Management Office or by visiting www.militaryonesource.mil.

Household goods

Household goods are all the things you will need to set up home at your new duty station, and are typically shipped by moving companies under contract to DOD.

You will need to schedule an inspection so the company representative can estimate the total weight of your household goods and submit and estimate to the government.

Once this is done, you will also need to schedule a pick-up date — when PCS out; and once you arrive at your new assignment, a delivery date.

1. Items that you need to do your job, such as your professional books, papers, and equipment, do not count against the weight limit for your household goods shipment. Make sure you separate those items from the rest of your belongings, and clearly mark the boxes in which they are contained.

2. The service member may request that professional books, papers and equipment belonging to his or her spouse be shipped at government expense on a PCS move. If approved, the weight limit is not to exceed 500 pounds for your spouse's belongings.

3. Begin weighing your items to determine if the belongings you plan to move fall within the weight limit long before you are expected to move. Each room potentially has enough items to roughly equal 1,000 pounds.

4. Don't over pack. If you go over your allotted weight limit, you are responsible for paying the extra expenses incurred.

5. Make sure to hand carry important documents like your orders, birth certificates, housing information, financial information, medication, phone charger, school or employment records, vehicle documentation or anything else that you or your family will need immediately. Do not pack these items with the



rest of your belongings because they could get lost.

6. Make sure to include as "unaccompanied baggage" things that you will need right away such as seasonal clothes, kitchen items and baby equipment.

7. On packing day, make sure to set aside any important items you need to keep with you, such as car keys, important documents, etc. Put those items somewhere the movers do not have access to, such as your car, or a closet clearly marked as "Do Not Pack."

8. Household goods shipments can take weeks to months to be delivered, so be prepared to wait for your stuff. If you arrive at your destination before your belongings do, you can usually borrow basic items like pots and pans, utensils, coffee makers, etc. from the Airmen's Attic loan closet. Services vary by installation, and some installations put rank restrictions on who can use the program.

Unaccompanied baggage

Unaccompanied baggage, commonly called 'hold baggage,' consists of items you will need to set-up home immediately upon arrive. Household goods can sometimes takes weeks or several months to arrive at your new assignment, so it is essential you plan ahead for what you will include in your unaccompanied baggage.



The term 'hold baggage' is actually throwback to the time when most military moves were by ship, and what is now considered unaccompanied baggage would be stowed below decks.

What to hand carry

To help you get settled in as smoothly as possible after your move, important items should be carried with you for safe keeping and easy access. From important documents to items you need when you arrive, here's what to keep close.

Important documents

The most important items to keep with you during a PCS are your vital documents. Check off each item in this list and make multiple copies, as appropriate. Electronic copies can be convenient, but make sure to have physical copies as well.

- Orders — Keep your original set of orders with you at all times and make more than one copy.

- Identification for each family member — Bring your military IDs and driver's licenses, but also Social Security cards, passports and birth, marriage and naturalization certificates.

- Vehicle documentation — Carry your vehicle title or lease information and proof of vehicle inspection, registration and insurance.

- Financial info — Carry any hard copies of credit and debit card statements you need.

- Housing info — Carry your inventory list you need as lease or mortgage documents.

- Legal documents — Carry any paperwork from a divorce or adoption papers, attorney documents.

- School or employment records — Carry transcripts, report cards, etc. You may need for school or employment. Individualized education plans are important to carry this information for a child with special needs provided by the Education Department.

- Medical and dental records — Carry medical and dental records. You will likely be needed for some employment applications.

Essentials for in your new home

Because moving is a good idea to carry a good idea to carry items to consider.

- Medication for you and your family — Carry medications close at hand. You may need for you, too, on the way there.

- Phones and communication — Carry your smartphone and other communication devices.

- Valuables — Carry family heirloom or other valuables for safe-keeping.

- Home items — Carry items you need and you have your own items you are going to use.

all my stuff?



Courtesy photos

your new house: toilet paper, paper towels, hand soap, cleaners, toilet brush, broom, mop, drinks, snacks, diapers, paper plates, etc. Then pack an extra bag with sheets, towels and an air mattress. Even if your belongings are scheduled to arrive “door-to-door,” it’s a good idea to plan for an extra day or two without your things because moving delays happen, especially in summer.

Unaccompanied baggage is typically picked up several weeks ahead of your household goods pickup.

One tip I learned when I was on active duty, is that I would designate one room in my home and put all the items I wanted to include in unaccompanied baggage in one room. That way, when the packers arrived, I could direct them to the room and say ‘everything goes.’

Similarly, when it was time for my household goods to be picked up, I would pre-pack the suitcases I planned on traveling with – and lock them in the bathroom. That was to make sure essential items like uniforms didn’t get packed up with my household goods.

Firearms

While you are allowed to ship firearms in your household goods shipment during a stateside move, they must comply with all local and state laws. If moving overseas, you must abide by the laws of the host country. For more information, contact your local Transportation Management Office.

Professional books, papers and equipment, or pro-gear

Pro-gear can include books or military reference materials; professional tools for your job, including instruments; specialized clothing; military communication equipment; individually owned or issued gear; or clothing.

Service members can move up to 2,000 pounds of professional gear, and spouses can move up to 500 pounds of professional gear.

Personally procured moves for do-it-yourself movers

If you prefer to organize your move yourself, you may be able to choose a personally procured move, or PPM. You are eligible for a PPM when you have PCS orders, a temporary duty assignment, or face separation, retirement or assignment to, from or between government quarters.

During a PPM, you coordinate the move of your household goods yourself without using any military moving services. This means that you are responsible for all the planning and communications that a military-coordinated move usually handles. Doing it all yourself can mean added stress and possible problems.

But military moves don’t have to be exclusively one or the other. You can use some military moving services and manage other parts of the move yourself. For more information, contact your local transportation office or ask a Military OneSource moving expert.

Whether this is your first PCS or you’re a seasoned professional, let Military OneSource help you master your move so you can get on with your mission.

Gun safes excluded from household goods weight allowance

by Staff Sgt.
ELORA J. MCCUTCHEON

Arlington, Va.

As of May 2022, the Joint Travel Regulations for service members were updated to exclude the weight of gun safes from the total weight allowance of household goods in a permanent change of station.

As the number of accidental child injuries and deaths continue to rise, more and more incidents are attributed to unsecured, loaded guns. Defense leaders are confident this update will help improve overall gun safety in homes, while also helping to decrease service member suicides.

“We will continue to prioritize the health, safety, and welfare of our Airmen, Guardians, and their families,” said Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall. “We want to ensure our service members have a safe home.”

The weight allowance for household goods falls between 5,000 and 18,000 pounds, based on rank and whether or not a service member has dependents.

With the weight of gun safes typically ranging from 200 to over 1,000 pounds, some service members may have experienced a conflict when choosing between safety and convenience. Now, service members are allowed to ship empty gun safes, not to exceed 500 pounds, in addition to respective household goods weight allowances.

Leaving loaded guns in unsecured areas of the home, such as bedside tables, closet storage rooms and unlocked gun cabinets, creates an opportunity for children to gain access to weapons, putting themselves or others in danger.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that firearms were the leading cause of death among U.S. children and adolescents in 2020.

Beyond the impact unsecured guns have on child safety, the Department of Defense has recognized the significant rise in service member suicide rates and established the Suicide Prevention and Response Independent Review Committee in March to address and prevent suicide in the military.

The Department of the Air Force Suicide Prevention Program, Integrated Resilience, Security Forces and the Safety Office combined to promote an effort focused on putting time and space between distressed individuals and the means to harm themselves named “Time-Based Prevention,” which became a part of the Department of the Air Force’s comprehensive suicide prevention strategy.

“We know that increasing the time between one’s suicide ideation and one’s access to a firearm can play a critical role in preventing a suicide. If this policy change prevents just one suicide, it’ll be a success in my eyes,” said Under Secretary of the Air Force Gina Ortiz Jones.

The concept was presented to Total Force Airmen who shared that the cost of going over their household goods limits is a barrier to using weapon safes in the home, leading the Department of the Air Force to pursue this change to the JTR. The DOD went on to adopt the “Time-Based Prevention” approach as a part of the DOD suicide prevention strategy.

In addition to the JTR update, the Department of the Air Force implemented a cable gun lock safety program in 2020, sending 150,000 cable gun locks to every installation in the United States for distribution to service members on a first-come, first-served basis.

“The bottom line is our first obligation is to the Airmen, Guardians, and families who were courageous enough to raise their right hand to serve this country,” Kendall said. “Everything we do is with them in mind, and this regulation update is no different.”





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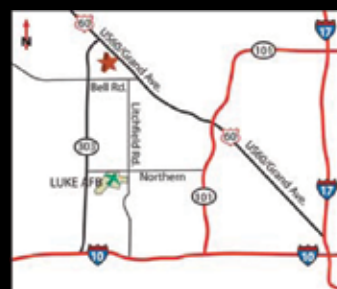
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Airman's Attic help families cope

by
KC RAWLEY

Aerotech News

Let's face it, moving is stressful for anyone. When service members and their families have to PCS, it means a complete disruption of their lives. And PCS is costly, especially for enlisted personnel.

According to the 2021 Military Family Lifestyle Survey, "Two-thirds (66 percent) of active-duty family respondents report having unreimbursed out-of-pocket expenses related to their last PCS move, and among those with unreimbursed moving costs, more than half (55 percent) report those expenses to be over \$1,000."



Courtesy photos



Most Air Force bases have Airman's Attics and/or base thrift stores to help those in the lower ranks stretch their dollar.

Run by volunteer service groups like the Spouses Club, Airman's Attics enable enlisted personnel (E-1 to E-5 or E-6, it varies by base) to get housewares, uniforms, rank insignia and furniture at no cost.

If you arrive at a new base without

some necessary items, they might be able to help you.

Due to "real estate issues," the Airman's Attic at Luke AFB is combined with the thrift shop, according to Spouse Club member Lucinda Carmichael.

Vouchers are available monthly at Luke's Military and Family Support Center to buy items in the thrift shop. At Luke,

it is \$20 a month for those E-5 and below, to which they can add their own money, but Carmichael said that more help can be available. She said first sergeants will contact them when there is a particular problem.

"We are always there to help young families in need," she said.

The money raised by most Spouses Clubs through the shops and fundraisers is returned to the community in scholarships for military children. The clubs also provide activities such as monthly bunco and bingo games, craft groups and recipe swaps.

"The military community is known for helping each other out," said Carmichael.

She added that Luke's thrift shop is lucky in the amount of donated goods they receive. Often, personnel who PCS, retire, or leave the area will donate unneeded items. Check your base's Facebook page as new arrivals are often highlighted there, and follow them for news about hours and upcoming sales.

Likewise, if you are PCSing out, you could donate your unwanted home goods instead of sending them to an on-or off-base thrift store. Help out your fellow troops. Some Airman's Attics will even pick up your items.

Airman's Attic

Edwards AFB/Family Services

Airman's Attic

661-277-2246

Open to E-4 and below, Monday and Thursday a.m. to noon.

E-4 and above and retirees, the second and fourth Wednesdays — 10 a.m. to noon.

Everyone, the second Saturday of each month—10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Verify hours on Facebook page, donations can be dropped off behind building

Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068080914712

Nellis/Creech AFB

Airman's Attic

702-644-3777

4148 Mountain Home Street

Bldg. 605, near Commissary

Open to E-6 families and below

Open Tuesday, Thursday, and every other Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Airmansatticnellis

Luke AFB

Thrift Shop / Airman's Attic

623-856-6415

4200 Mountain Home Blvd, inside commissary

Open Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Luke-AirForceBaseThriftShopAirmansAttic

Davis-Monthan AFB

Airman's Attic

520-228-6816

Bldg. 2441

Open to E-6 and below full access to donations.

Open to E-7 and above for uniform items only

Open Mondays and Wednesdays 3-5 p.m.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Davis-Monthan-AFB-Airmans-Attic

CLUTTER

(from Page 10)

ing fine china and don't want to inherit it, either.

Sporting equipment: If your family is still involved in the sport but have outgrown some of the equipment, see if someone else on the team has items they can swap, or maybe someone just starting up can use yours. There are consignment shops, or you can just give it away. If the interest in baseball has waned, and the kids are interested in some other sport or interest, don't keep equipment hoping they will pick it up again. If they do, the cost of restarting is on them; they can save their allowance.

The same goes for art supplies, knitting, crochet, jewelry making, and whatever toys, games or interests your children have. They are notorious for being fickle. If they haven't used it in six months, find it a new home. (Same goes for you, Mom and Dad).

Sentimental: This is the really difficult one. Often, we still have eyeglasses, books, special articles of cloth-

Downsizing questions

1. Do I need this?
2. Does it bring me happiness?
3. Am I keeping it for 'one day'?
4. Do I already own something similar?
5. Am I keeping this for sentimental reasons?
6. Why do I have this?

ing, musical instruments, bric-a-brac, and other keepsakes from old loves, friends, or deceased relatives. Sometimes it's kids' trophies or uniforms that we can't bear to part with. Try taking pictures of them and dispose of the actual item.

If we are afraid that without the item, we will forget the memories, paste the photo in an album and jot down the attendant reminiscence with some details. Then you can browse it at your leisure and show it to your kids. That way, even when you're gone, they can remember what you said about great-grandma and Aunt June.

Eyeglasses can be donated to Lion's Clubs, WalMarts, and some optometrist offices to help others see.

Letting go

Often, people who lose all their material possessions find that after grieving their loss, they find a new relationship with the "things" in their life. If you are interested in exploring this issue more, you can start with this article from the Minimalism Made Simple website, "The Truth About Material Possessions." [<https://www.minimalismmadesimple.com/home/material-possessions/>]

After all, paring down your lifestyle now would make your next PCS much simpler.



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To ship, or not ship; that is the question

by
STUART IBBERSON

Aerotech News

Service members PCSing from one stateside base to another will typically drive to their new duty assignment.

However, if you have orders for an overseas assignment, you need to decide whether to ship your vehicle, or not!

As with anything PCS related, the first call on your list should be to the local Transportation Management Office. They will be able to give you up-to-date information on the why, how and when to ship.

But before you decide to ship a vehicle overseas, there are some things to think about.

1. The Department of Defense will cover the cost of shipping one vehicle to your final destination. You are, however, limited by your vehicles' size. The government will pay to ship a vehicle up to 20 metric tons. For any vehicle weighing more (that could be an oversize truck or SUV), the service member may incur additional costs.

2. Modified vehicles. Many people take pride in after-market modifications to their vehicles, but these could cause issues in other countries. One example that comes to mind is that in Turkey, after-market window tinting is not legal.

3. Time restraints. As you get ready for your PCS move, you will find there are deadlines for many things – scheduling hold baggage and household goods pickups; scheduling a time to move out of government quarters, etc. There will also be deadlines to be met when shipping a vehicle – from when and where to drop it off for shipping, to when and where to pick it up at your new duty station.

4. Packing your vehicle. You may be tempted to load up your car or truck prior to shipment, rather than include them in your household goods. The only things you can 'ship' in your vehicle are items used for operating the vehicle or transporting passengers. These include:

- Jacks, tire irons, tire chains, spare and snow tires.
- Jumper cables and luggage racks.
- First aid kits, and
- Portable cribs, children's car seats and strollers.

A full list is available at https://www.ustranscom.mil/dtr/part-iv/dtr_part_iv_app_k_3.pdf

5. Licensing. Local licensing laws will apply once you arrive at your new duty station. These laws vary by country, and there may be strict deadlines on when to register. Some countries may require you to register your vehicle locally, some may require you to get a U.S. military license plate. Again, contact your Transportation Management Office for more information.

6. Buying a second car. Once you arrive at your new duty station, you may find that two cars are a necessity for your family.

a. Buying a secondhand car. Many people opt to buy a secondhand car once they arrive. Many bases, both stateside and overseas, have a Lemon Lot where service members can buy and sell second-



Courtesy photo

hand cars. If you do decide to sell your vehicle (either stateside or overseas), make sure you allow enough time for it to sell before you have to leave.

b. Buying a new car overseas. Some decide to buy a new vehicle once they arrive overseas. Oftentimes, the prices can seem like you are getting a good deal but you need to remember that if you ship your 'new' vehicle back to the States you will have to make sure it meets U.S. standards.

7. Think about what it will take to ship your American POV stateside after your tour is over. Several years ago, unleaded gasoline was not readily available in the United Kingdom, so everyone had to use leaded fuel. When shipping their U.S. vehicles back to the United States, service members had to pay for a new catalytic converter to be installed.

As with any other aspect of your PCS move, check with your local TMO, or request a sponsor from your gaining unit and ask them for advice and information. **Still have questions? www.militaryonesource.mil has the following Frequently Asked Questions:**

Q. What is a POV?

A. A POV, or privately owned vehicle, is any motor vehicle that provides personal transportation and is owned by, or on a long-term lease to (12 or more months), a customer or a customer's dependents. A POV can have four or more wheels, like a car or truck. The POV must be:

- Self-propelled
- Licensed to travel on public highways
- Designed to carry passengers or household goods

Q. Will the government pay to ship a POV?

A. You may have an entitlement to ship or store one POV at government expense when you receive permanent change of station orders.

For CONUS to CONUS:

The cost of transporting your POV to your new duty station is largely your responsibility for a CONUS to CONUS move. There are exceptions, so if you're unsure, contact your local Transportation

Management Office (for military members). Civilian employees can contact their human resource office.

If you can't drive from your previous CONUS duty station to the new CONUS location because of medical or personal reasons, or if the travel time exceeds your report-in date, contact your local Transportation Management Office.

For OCONUS to CONUS; CONUS to OCONUS; OCONUS to OCONUS:

Only one POV owned or leased for personal use may be shipped at government expense. To inquire about exceptions, or if you would like to make your own arrangements to ship more than one POV to your new duty station, contact your local Transportation Management Office.

Q. Is a motorcycle considered a POV?

A. It depends. A motorcycle or moped

can be considered a POV if you are not shipping a vehicle at government expense on the same authorization or travel orders. If you have questions, contact your local Transportation Management Office.

Q. What documents do I need to turn in or pick up my POV?

A. Visit <https://pcsmypov.com/> for more information.

Q. Who do I contact regarding my POV shipment?

A. Please contact the Vehicle Processing Center nearest your present duty station. You can find out where your nearest VPC is by visiting <https://pcsmypov.com/>

Q. How do I know if there are restrictions when shipping my POV to a foreign country?

A. Contact your local Transportation Management Office.

Q. How full can my fuel tank be when I ship my POV?

A. U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (Title 49, Transportation, Carriage By Vessel, section 176.905, paragraph A (2) specifically states: "The fuel tank of a motor vehicle or mechanical equipment powered by liquid fuel may not be more than one-fourth full."

Q. Do I have to clean my POV before it is shipped?

A. The exterior of your POV must be washed and clean of all dirt. The interior of your vehicle must be vacuumed clean (dry vacuumed only).

Q. How long do I have to pick up my POV?

A. You have 21 days from the day your POV is available to pick it up. The destination Vehicle Processing Center will notify you within 24 hours via email or postcard when your vehicle is ready for you. You can also track your vehicle's progress to its final destination on PC-SmyPOV.



Courtesy graphic



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Pets ...

by
STUART IBBERSON

Aerotech News

The terms 'pet parents' and 'fur babies' are familiar to everyone and pets are often considered 'part of the family.'

Moving can be stressful for the human members of your family, but it can even more so for our four-legged family members.

While the service member, spouse and children are excited about an upcoming move, looking forward to exploring different areas of the United States or foreign countries, making a PCS move can be traumatic for pets.

Your first reaction is probably 'my pets are going with me.' However, there are a lot of things to consider before you make that decision.

If you are a 'pet parent' and receive orders, the first thing you should do is contact your local Transportation Management Office.

If you are moving from one CONUS base to another, you may feel you can just load Fido in the car and head to your new duty station.

However, many states have different licensing and quarantine requirements, some communities may have breed restrictions, and you will need to find out what health documents you will need.

Throw into the mix that once you arrive, housing may not be readily available and you (and your family) may have to live in the TLF for a while, or find an off-base apartment which could have pet restrictions.

You need to contact your new base as early as possible and find out if the TLF allows pets, and if not, will a statement of non-availability be issued? If the TLF allows pets, you're okay – if not, and a statement of non-availability will NOT be issued, any temporary accommodation you need will be your own expense.

The key is to know before you go, and do your research. The DOD-sponsored militaryonesource.mil can give you resources and information.

Now if you are PCSing to Alaska, there's a different set of challenges.

If traveling by air, some airlines restrict pet shipment due to extreme temperatures. Most will not fly a pet if the temperature is more than 85 degrees or less than 20 degrees at any point in the trip. These temperature variances cover most of the year in Alaska, so be sure to call the airline in advance.

If you decide to travel by privately owned vehicle, you will be required to present shot records and health certificates at the Canadian border.

And if you decide to take the ferry, the Alaska Marine Highway System does allow pets on board – but each pet must have a health certificate within 30 days of travel, a fee of \$35 is charged per animal, and animals must remain on the card deck.

PCSing to Hawaii with pets brings a whole new set of considerations and requirements.

Hawaii is a rabies-free state and in



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Joshua Jasper/Released

Pets of U.S. Airmen and Department of Defense civilians are prepped to be loaded on to aircraft, March 31, 2016, at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, ordered the departure of all Department of Defense dependents assigned to Incirlik Air Base.

order to maintain that status, there are strict rules on bringing pets to the islands, and some length of quarantine will probably be necessary. More information can be found at <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/ai/files/2019/08/aqsbrochure-08.2019.pdf>.

In some instances, while the cost of air travel is covered by the service member, the cost of quarantine may be reimbursed by the government. As stated before, the best advice is to check with your local TMO as soon as possible.

International travel

There are more things to consider if you are PCSing overseas.

The first thing you need to do is see what kind of overseas tour you are going on. Is it a limited time unaccompanied tour? Is it a 2- or 3-year command sponsored overseas tour? Or is it non-command sponsored but you want to take your family (at your own expense) with you?

If you have orders for an unaccompanied tour you will NOT be able to take your pet(s) with you. Why you may ask? Because you are more than likely going to be living in the dorms or barracks and pets are not allowed.

If you are heading overseas for an accompanied tour, you need to research the requirements and laws for bringing pets into the country you are moving to.

U.S. military members serve in a foreign country under a Status of Forces Agreement. This is an agreement negotiated by the U.S. government and the host nation that covers all aspects of living and working in said country as a member of the U.S. military.

In some countries, the SOFA also covers pets, in some it does not.

Some countries will also require a period

of quarantine for arriving pets as long as six months, and oftentimes the service member will be required to pay for it.

Again, check with TMO to find out what you need to do if you want to take your pet overseas with you.

Remember, when traveling by air, whether on a commercially scheduled flight, or on a Patriot Express flight, the cost will be paid for by the service member. A Patriot Express flight is a commercial airline contracted by DOD to fly military members to specific destinations. The two U.S. airports that Patriot Express flights leave from are Baltimore/Washington International (for flights to Europe), and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (for flights to Asia).

Please remember, that if you are flying with pets, they will more than likely need to be in an approved carrier, loaded in the hold, and will only be allowed out once you have reached your destination. Some smaller animals can fly in the cabin – but must be in an approved carrier, must be stowed under the seat in front of you, and are not allowed out of the carrier while on the flight. You will also need to make sure that there is enough food and water for the duration of the flight, that your pet can stand up, turn around and lay down with normal posture, and cannot weigh more than 150 pounds (pet and carrier combined).

For more information on traveling with pets on a Patriot Express flight, visit <https://www.amc.af.mil/AMC-Travel-Site/AMC-Pet-Travel-Page/>

My pet will not be PCSing with me!

If your pet will not be traveling with you, there are, again, a lot of things to think about.

• If heading for an unaccompanied tour, and your family is not going with you, your pet(s) can stay with the family until you return. Many times, Airmen on an unaccompanied tour will have a guaranteed follow-on assignment (they know where they are going when they return to the United States) so you can relocate your family, and your pet, to your next duty station.

• Family: You can ask your family to look after your pet until you return. You should, however, make sure that your family members are able to look after your pet. A young puppy that needs lots of walks may not be a good match for elderly parents who don't get out much.

• Friends: Not an ideal option, unless you trust them implicitly! If you know the person who will look after your pet well, this may be an option. But be aware, your friends' situation may well change (they may also get PCS orders), and are not able to take care of your pet. And you should communicate ahead of time whether this will be a temporary or permanent rehoming of your pet.

• Adoption: Throughout the United States, there are many 'pure' breed societies that will facilitate an adoption, and have strict standards to follow including home visits, suitability assessments, etc. And some bases have pet adoption organizations that may help facilitate an adoption.

The one thing you should NOT do is abandon your pet. You wouldn't leave your young child behind to fend for itself and you should NOT leave your pet to fend for itself.

But – before you make any decisions, check with TMO!

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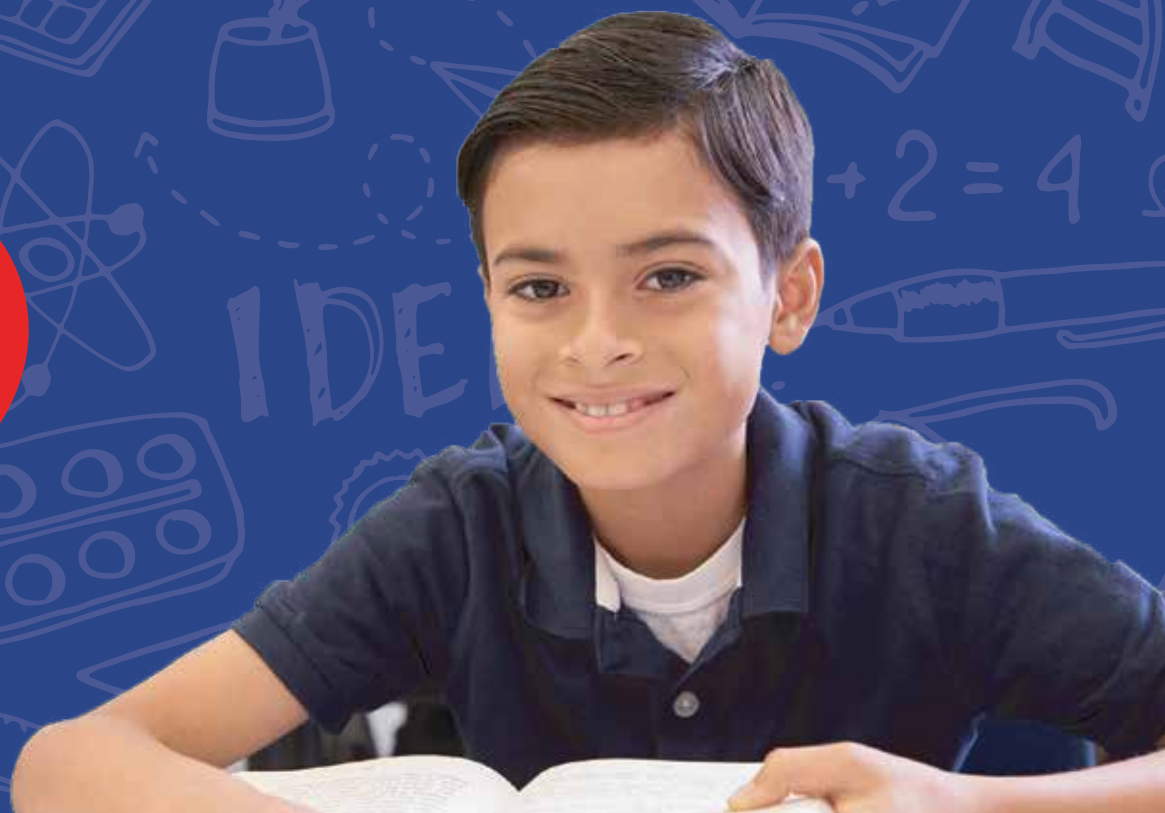
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What should I do if my stuff is damaged?

by
STUART IBBERSON

Aerotech News

As with any move, there will be times when things don't go as planned.

If your personal property is lost or damaged, or there is a lapse in service, you are entitled to compensation. However, to receive compensation, you must file a claim.

Sometimes moves don't go as smoothly as you would hope. You are entitled to receive compensation for lost or damaged property, and expenses incurred due to a lapse in service. You are highly encouraged to file claims in these instances and can find more details about the various types of claims and how to file for each in the information below.

Personal property claims

If you arrive at your new duty station and find some of your household goods lost or damaged, you may be entitled to the full replacement value, or the cost of repair.

This includes items that have been transported via the following move types:

- Household goods, or HHG
- Unaccompanied baggage, or UB
- Non-temporary storage, or NTS
- Direct procurement method, or DPM

You must give notice of loss or damage with 180 calendar days from the delivery date.

The first step in initiating a claim is to give your Transportation Service Provider written notice listing all the missing or damaged items for which you intend to file a claim. This notice does not need to give full details about each item — that will be done when you file your claim — but the notice should include the item name, inventory number and a brief description of the loss or damage.

Most people do not unpack every box on the day they are delivered, so you can give multiple notifications as long as it is within the 180-day period.

The notice can be submitted:

1. By reviewing and signing the "Notification for Loss and Damage at Delivery" form given to you by the delivery crew on your delivery day.

2. By submitting the "Notification of Loss and Damage After Delivery" form in the Defense Personal Property System at dps.move.mil

The next step after giving your notice of loss or damage, is to file an itemized claim in DPS for every item that was lost or damaged during the moving process.

You have up to nine months to file a claim for full replacement/repair value of the item(s) you are claiming. If the claim is filed more than nine months from the delivery date, you will only be eligible for a depreciated value.

It may be best to gather as much information as you can before logging into the DPS to file your claim. Information may include: manufacturer, description of item, inventory number, cost when you bought the item, the year you bought the item, description of the damage, and an estimate for repair of the item. You can also include photographs and receipts if you have them.



Courtesy photo

Once the claim is filed, TSP must confirm receipt within 15 calendar days. TSP is then responsible for assessing the value of your property and may send someone to inspect the damage. If property is lost, TSP will start a trace to locate it. TSP must pay, deny, or make an offer within 30 days on all claims of \$1,000 or less, and 60 days for claims over \$1,000.

When TSP provides an itemized listing of their offer, you can accept or reject the offer for each item. This step should be completed by using DPS.

Remember, do not feel pressured to accept an offer unless you are completely satisfied with the amount offered.

If you are unable to come to an agreement with the TSP, you should transfer your claim to your military claims office. The MCO will then take over the process.

Instead of using the traditional filing method described above, if the delivering TSP offers, you may file a quick claim settlement outside of DPS to promptly resolve minor loss or damage (not to exceed \$1,000). You will file paperwork on delivery

day with the TSP and payment will be sent "within five calendar days" of claim submission. While you cannot file claims on those specific items later, you may still use DPS to file claims for other lost or damaged items discovered after delivery.

Residential damage claims

If your TSP causes any damage to your home or residence, you can file a Real Property Damage claim to be reimbursed. Follow these steps to file a Real Property Damage claim.

Step 1: Document the damage on the day it occurs

Conduct a pre and post walk-around with the TSP and note any damage, both interior and exterior, in writing. Take pictures for your records. An example of damage might include scratched hardwood floors, dented walls, torn grass, etc.

Step 2: Submit a claim

Contact the TSP directly within "seven calendar days" from the last date they were at your residence. The TSP may require you to submit a "DP3 Real Property Damage Form."

Step 3: Conduct an inspection

The TSP may schedule an inspection within "15 calendar days" of notification. They will arrange for a repair firm to inspect your property damage. The repair estimate will be shared with you to determine payment.

Inconvenience claims

If your household goods arrive late, you may be entitled to an inconvenience claim.

An inconvenience claim is authorized and payable when:

- The TSP fails to pick up a shipment upon the agreed date.
- The TSP fails to deliver on or before the required delivery date, provided you are in possession of residence and are available to receive the delivery.

- The TSP places your shipment into storage in transit, or SIT, without you being notified.

- You have requested for your shipment to be released from SIT and the carrier is unable to deliver the shipment out of SIT within the following dates:

- * Within seven government business days from the date you make your first contact requesting delivery or
- * Within two government business days, when your requested delivery date is more than seven business days out.

You will be notified by your TSP if a delay is expected to occur with your shipment. This normally happens a few days prior to the scheduled delivery day but could be as late as on the day of scheduled delivery.

Vehicle claims

There are two options for filing a POV loss or damage claim:

1. Onsite settlement: File a claim (valued at \$1,500 or less) at the Vehicle Processing Center during pickup. Payment will be sent electronically to your bank account.

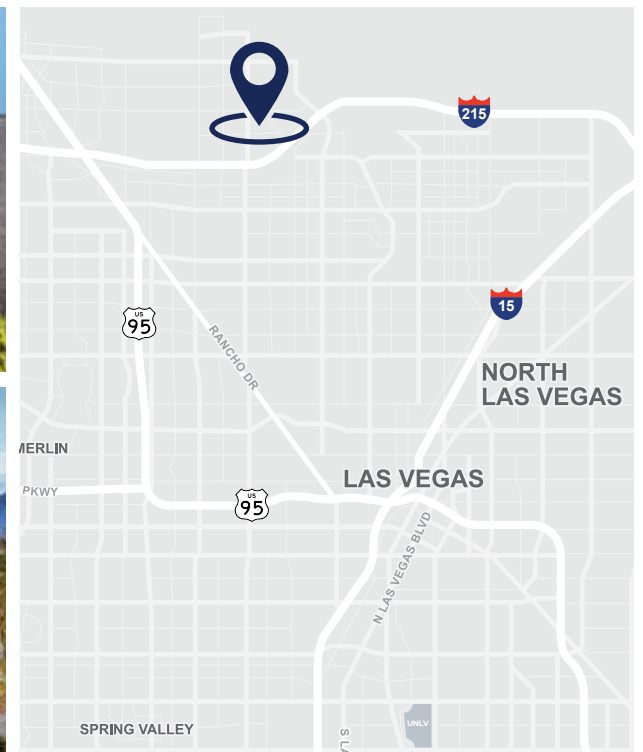
2. International Auto Logistics, or IAL, claim: Obtain an estimate from a repair facility of your choice and submit to the IAL claims office. IAL will review, process, and settle your claim within 90 days. For more information, contact the IAL Claims department toll free at (855) 389-9499 and select "claims" from the voice menu. Claims may be emailed to claims@ialpov.us.

You can access IAL's claims information at PCSMYPOV.org or review the "POV Claims brochure" for more details on this topic.

If you are unable to settle your claim directly with IAL, you can transfer your claim to your service branch military claims office, or MCO.

POV inconvenience claims

As with a late delivery of household goods, you may be entitled to an inconvenience claim if your shipped vehicle is delayed. This could include rental care and lodging expenses. The government will reimburse you up to \$30 per day for the first seven calendar days, not to exceed \$210. After that time, the contractor may be responsible for paying inconvenience claims over the government's maximum allowance.



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