

General PCS Tips and Tricks



Getting started

- Start early. Especially if you're going OCONUS.
- Talk to your Ombudsman or Relocation specialist. Ask for resources.
- Ask sponsor for Welcome Letter and local resources available.
- Talk to spouses who have lived at your new station. Ask questions. Join social media pages.

Documentation

- If OCONUS move, ensure passports are up to date.
- Make a folder or binder to hold all of your important PCS documents i.e. orders, school transcripts, medical records, move paperwork, weight tickets, etc. (Check out PCS Binder page)
- Have a checklist to ensure PCS items are getting completed. (PCS Checklist)
- Document everyone you talk to; name/dates/time/employee ID. This will help if anything happens or you are given misinformation.
- Inform medical office personnel of move. Sign medical release forms.

**This is NOT an Official U.S. Coast Guard document. The information is provided in good faith based on recommendations of military families. Use the information at your own risk. **

Service member prep

- Make copies of awards and qualifications that are being packed.
- Ensure all uniform items needed to check in at the next station are set aside before movers start packing.
- If hand carrying medical record, ensure it is in the do not pack section.

General thoughts

- PCS move is stressful for the whole family. Try to remember you're a team, and make it an adventure to remember.
- Consider collecting a memento to celebrate and remember each move (Christmas ornament, wall sign/ decor, jewelry charm, etc.).
- Have fun and make it a road trip.
- Give yourself plenty of travel time.
- Start living out of suitcases several days ahead of time so that there is enough time to get laundry done to pack everything clean.
- Be flexible. Don't sweat the small stuff.
- Save boxes for expensive items like TVs.
- Save your receipts for big-ticket items (TV, furniture, mattress, washer/dryer, etc).