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PCS Tips, Tricks, and Resources

Before

- Schedule your move early with your Transportation/Traffic Management Office (TMO) as soon as you receive orders to improve your scheduling options. Expect monthlong delays due to the backlog from COVID-19.
- Contact your gaining unit and ask for recommended housing and school options.
- Check school ratings online. For example: www.SchoolDigger.com, www.niche.com or www.greatschools.org.
- Check child care availability at gaining installation and online via www.childcareaware.org.
- Call TRICARE and check military treatment facility (MTF) availability for dependents. If your dependents need a medical specialist, be sure to ask TRICARE if there is a waiting list.
- For CONUS moves, pack your vehicles before moving day and include essential family items in case your household goods delivery is delayed and you need to “camp out” at your new house.
- Contact your gaining installation’s housing office regarding availability and ask if there are any houses with mold problems.
- For CONUS moves, use your Permissive Temporary Duty (PTDY) early to find housing with the goal for a door-to-door move to avoid household goods storage time.
- Create an energy management plan for your family — a rest plan and a special event for the family can make PCSing a positive event.
- Take pictures of valuable items and separate professional gear.
- Tag items for specific rooms in your next house.
- Ask for help from friends and neighbors on moving day to monitor the move.
- Warn your neighbors the moving truck is coming and might affect parking.

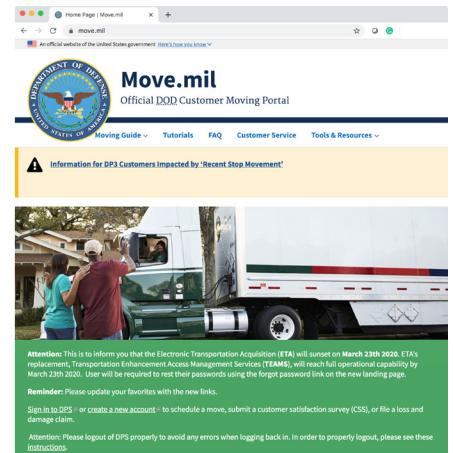
During

- Conduct an in-brief with the driver and packers and communicate your concerns with fragile valuables and furniture — clear communication is appreciated.
- Offer to get lunch for your movers and take their sandwich order at the in-brief.
- For CONUS moves: Before the driver pulls away from your losing station, discuss options for a door-to-door move and expected drive times.
- Remind the driver that this is a DoD move and they are contracted for a full unpack and box removal. Some drivers will not bring enough personnel for a full unpack unless prompted.
- Ask for the moving company phone number to call for an inconvenience claim if the shipment is late.
- As your household goods are unpacked, take pictures to document any damage for the claims process.
- Contact your TMO with any concern for help.

After

- Schedule time for the claims process for broken household goods. Have your before and after digital pictures. Communicate frequently with your gaining unit sponsor that you must complete the claims process before in processing your new station.
- Mix family fun events at your new station and moving-in tasks like hanging pictures. Attitude is contagious, and planning for fun now will set the tone for your next PCS.

ONLINE RESOURCES



Official DoD moving portal:
www.move.mil/

Plan My Move (Customized PCS checklists and more): <https://planmymove.militaryonesource.mil/>

Electronic Transportation Acquisition (ETA) Portal: <https://eta.sddc.army.mil/ETASSOPortal/>

Military Kids Connect (Resources for PCS moves and other needs): <https://militarykidsconnect.health.mil/>

Travel pay information (DFAS): <https://www.dfas.mil/militarymembers/travelpay/>



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