PCS GUIDE

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HOUSE HUNTING PRIOR TO MOVE

A few months before your the move to your next duty station, military members are allowed a permissive TDY (Temporary Duty) for up to 10 days in conjunction with a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) move between and within the 50 states & District of Columbia. You must travel and stay in temporary lodging on your own dime (no transportation or per diem paid), but you will not be charged for up to 10 days leave.

You can select when you prefer to take these 10 extra days of leave. You can choose to travel months in advance of your PCS move and see the local options for living arrangements, or you can take the extra 10 days of house hunting leave and take your normal leave as you make this transition. However, if you are still living in the barracks, dorms, or on ship, you cannot take house hunting leave.

DISLOCATION ALLOWANCE

Military members may be entitled to a Dislocation Allowance (DLA) when relocating their household due to a PCS. DLA is intended to partially reimburse relocation expenses not otherwise reimbursed. For more information and current rates. DLA amounts vary by rank and dependency status. You can get advanced DLA payment 10 days prior to your sign out date.

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ADDITIONAL CONSUMABLES ALLOWANCE

This is a separate allowance for annual shipment of up to 1,250 pounds per year of consumable items. Weight is in addition to the household goods weight limit. This is called a DITY move and you get reimbursed if you move items in your car. Make sure to check with your local TMO office.

ADVANCE PAY

A service member may be eligible to apply for 1 – 3 months of advance pay. The repayment period ranges from 12 – 24 months. A service member can make a request to receive advance pay 30 days prior to a PCS or 60 days after a PCS. You must be able to demonstrate why the funds are needed. You will most likely be asked to complete a budget or financial worksheet outlining the additional costs related to the move. If you are requesting more than a month's basic pay the request will need to be reviewed by your commander and the same thing goes if you want a repayment exceeding 12 months. This is pay is interest free.

ADVANCE BAH

Advance BAH is similar to a pay advance, except that the funds must be requested in conjunction with a move into a new house or apartment that is not government housing, and the funds must be used to pay advance rent, security deposits, or other initial expenses. Advance BAH can not be used by those purchasing a home; it is only available for expenses related to rental properties. Advance BAH does not have to be requested in conjunction with a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) move, but it must be requested within 30 days, before or after, of an eligible move. Other frequent uses include newly married service members moving from the barracks, or service members who have promoted and are no longer required to live on base. Advance BAH is typically repaid over 12 month, though repayment may be extended up to 24 months or the projected end of the current tour. In addition, repayment may be deferred up to three months in special circumstances.