



## Six Tips to Simplify Your **PCS Move**





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## Introduction

As an active duty service member in the United States military, a permanent change of station is inevitable. In a way, a PCS is a lot like boot camp: Everyone goes through it, regardless of their chosen branch or the age in which they joined the armed forces. As with boot camp, a PCS has its challenges, its inconveniences and its obstacles. But much like training, if you go into it prepared, a PCS can be everything it's meant to be — an opportunity to begin a new chapter in your family's life and your military career as a service member of the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force or Marines.

If you have a PCS coming up, or you just want to get ready for when the call comes, this e-book will help you make the most of your first — or next — PCS move.





## 1. Begin Planning Well in Advance

Whether you're packing your bags for a week-long vacation or boxing up your belongings and relocating to a new home, moving is one of those things that typically takes a lot longer than you might anticipate going into it. That's why it's important to begin the preparation process as soon as you receive your PCS orders. This includes paying a visit to your Transportation Office.


If you're opting for a personally procured move, in which you don't leverage military moving services, then you'll want to be in touch with a business, friend or family member who can loan you their truck — assuming your new duty station is inside the continental United States (CONUS). Giving that person or business a heads up will ensure there are no conflicts. In the event there is one, talk with your chain of command for alternative solutions.



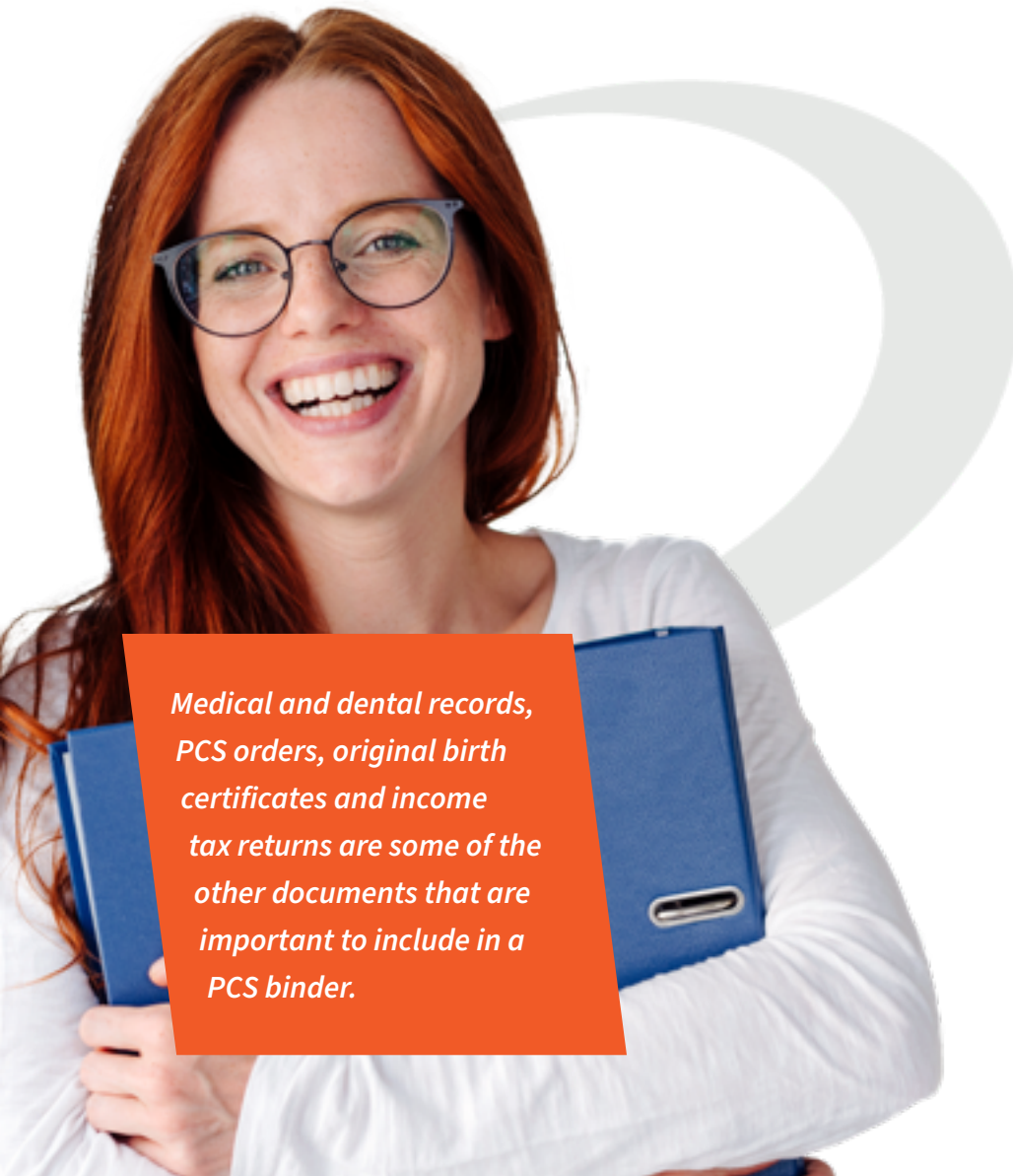
## 2. Save Up

A personally procured move is something a lot of military members choose because it allows you to be in control of the entire process; you get to decide the moving services that are best for you. But at the same time, going it alone comes with costs, which can add up rather quickly.

While it's true, the military does reimburse you for expenses that the government would have paid for had it been handling the move — such as the cost of renting a truck — some purchases are non-reimbursable, such as non-essential items (e.g. rugs, drapes, curtains, etc). There is also a threshold for how much the government reimburses.



*Saving up now will help you cover any expected or unexpected moving costs later.*



*Medical and dental records, PCS orders, original birth certificates and income tax returns are some of the other documents that are important to include in a PCS binder.*

### 3. Put Together a PCS Binder

Relocating from one duty station location to another — whether CONUS or OCONUS — entails packing up stuff, and lots of it, especially if you’ve been at your current base or installation for a long period of time . But it also brings with it a plethora of paperwork that you’ll need at the ready.

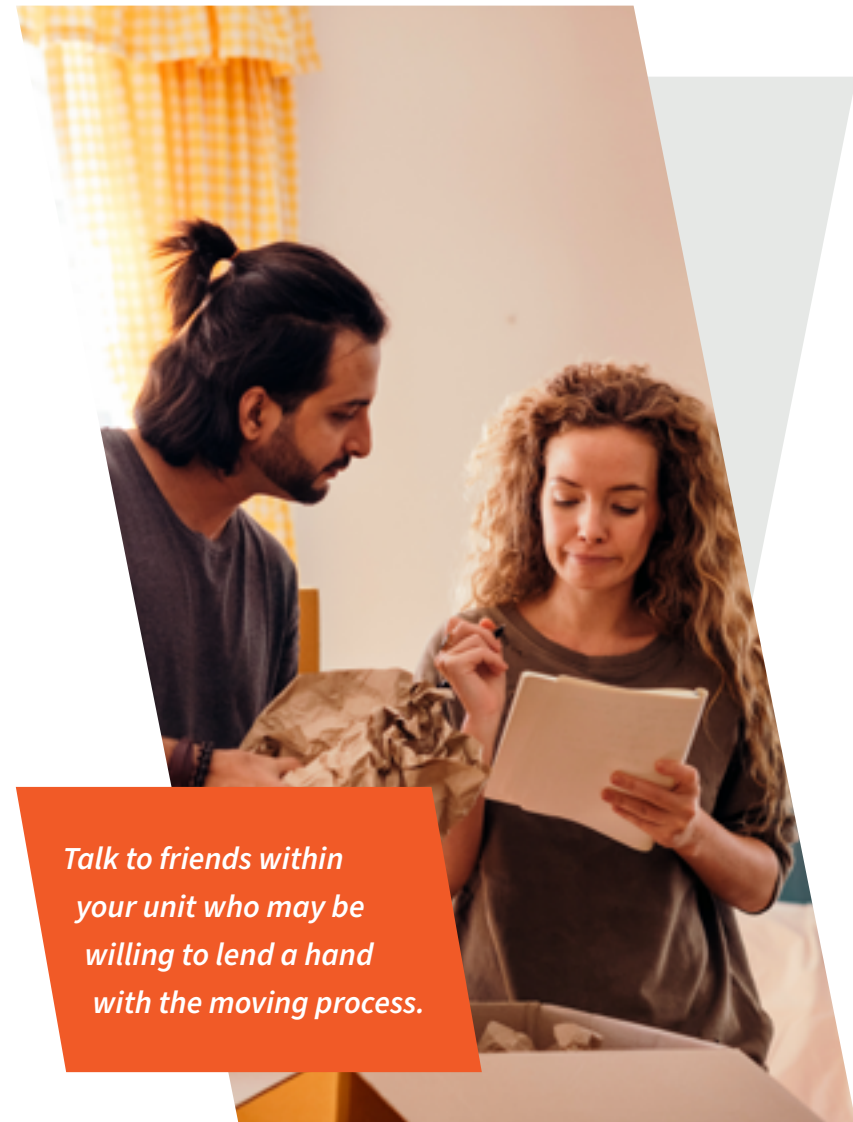
Instead of combining these papers with other documents, consider putting together a PCS binder. It should contain all the documents that are relevant to your change of station. These may include things like your car’s registration information, your marriage license, a photocopy of your ID or driver’s license and your passport.

Medical and dental records, PCS orders, original birth certificates and income tax returns are some of the other documents that are important to include in a PCS binder. Having them all together will save you time and hassle.

## 4. Ask Fellow Troops If They'd Be Willing to Help

From lieutenants to multi-star generals, no one gets to their rank in the military entirely on their own. The same is true for moving — you won't be able to do it all alone. Even if you could, it's not a good idea, especially if you have a lot of heavy, cumbersome items that are coming with you.

Talk to friends within your unit who may be willing to lend a hand with the moving process. If possible, try to work around their schedules so it's as convenient for them as possible. Even if they can only help for a half hour, every little bit helps. After all, many hands make for light work.





*The internet is truly a treasure trove of resources that can make your PCS move more seamless and problem-free*

## 5. Leverage Online Resources

The internet is truly a treasure trove of resources that can make your PCS move more seamless and problem-free. Whether it's Military OneSource's [PlanMyMove](#) that allows you to make a fully customized checklist or [Move.mil](#), the Department of Defense's moving portal, logging on can take a lot of the guesswork out of a hands-on job like a permanent change in station.

Another [great website](#) is the portal operated by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. It's a one-stop online destination for forms, travel vouchers and examples of what miscellaneous expenses are and are not covered by the government if you're going with a personally procured move. There is also a frequently asked question section that can help to clear up common issues.



## 6. Donate, Give Away or Throw Away

Everyone has those items they think they'll wear or use at some point — but which ultimately just collect dust or take up space. For instance, if it's been months since you last wore that button-down shirt or sweater, odds are you're not going to have a change of heart anytime soon. Instead of taking them with you, you might give them away to someone who is your size. You could also donate them to a charitable organization; they'll be more than happy to take your excess things off your hands. There are also clothing recycling centers for items that may no longer be in wearable condition.

*Apply this same principle to household items you're no longer using. Whatever it is, it's one less thing to load and unload.*





## Omni Financial Is There For You

Whether you're leaving it to the military or you're doing the move yourself, it's comforting to know you have resources that are willing to lend a hand. Omni Financial is your financial helping hand.

For over 50 years, we've provided military loans to active duty and career retired service members for a variety of needs — including covering the costs of moving. Ranging between \$500 or \$10,000, personal loans can be used for just about anything, and we'll get you those funds quickly, wherever you may be now or are headed next. Be it emergency expenses, debt consolidation, lease deposits or PCS moves, how you use the loan is entirely up to you.

*Contact us today to learn more.*