STANDARD GUIDE

The Standard CONUS PCS Guide

The process, timeline and first decisions for any stateside move.

SERIES

CONUS

PCS

FROM	TO	GUIDE
Your current duty station	Anywhere in the U.S.	Standard
START	**MOVE TYPE**	**TRAVELER**
90+ days out	HHG, PPM or both	_____

INSIDE THIS GUIDE

- The PCS process at a glance
- Your 90-60-30 day timeline
- Move week and arrival checklists
- The big five considerations
- Choosing your type of move
- Where to get help

START HERE

The PCS process at a glance

Every stateside move runs through the same six stages, no matter where you're headed. Know where you are, and you'll know what comes next.

01
Orders
Receive official orders and confirm your report date, entitlements and who's authorized to move with you.

02
Plan
Book your household goods move, decide where you'll live, and research the new area.

03
Prepare
Sort and declutter, gather records, and arrange schools, pets and vehicles.

04
Out-process
Clear your current installation, turn in housing, and finish your appointments.

05
Travel
Drive or fly to your new duty station. Keep every receipt for reimbursement.

06
Arrive & settle
In-process, receive your shipment, file your travel claim, and get the family connected.

Where most moves go sideways

Most stress comes from starting stage 2 late. The day your orders arrive, schedule your moving counseling — summer dates (May through September) fill fastest.

COUNTDOWN

Your move timeline

Book your household goods move the moment orders arrive. Then work backward from your report date and tick each box as it's done.

Get ahead 90+ DAYS OUT

- [ ] Get orders and read every line
- [ ] Connect with your sponsor
- [ ] Start a PCS binder for key documents
- [ ] Schedule moving counseling
- [ ] Research housing, schools and neighborhoods

Lock it in 60 DAYS OUT

- [ ] Lock in pack-out and pickup dates
- [ ] Request school and medical records
- [ ] Declutter — less weight, less stress
- [ ] Give notice to your landlord or housing
- [ ] Plan your route, lodging and travel budget

Tie up loose ends 30 DAYS OUT

- [ ] Confirm new housing or temporary lodging
- [ ] Forward mail and update addresses
- [ ] Begin out-processing appointments
- [ ] Schedule utility shutoff and setup
- [ ] Get pet travel paperwork

Show up and check MOVE WEEK

- [ ] Set up a "do not pack" zone
- [ ] Clean and clear housing
- [ ] Be there for pack-out; check the inventory
- [ ] Finish out-processing

Settle in AFTER ARRIVAL

- [ ] Sign in and in-process
- [ ] File travel and damage claims on time
- [ ] Update vehicle, license and insurance
- [ ] Receive delivery — note any damage
- [ ] Enroll kids; update medical enrollment

DECIDE EARLY

Basic considerations

A handful of early decisions shape the rest of your move. Make them while you still have options.

Choose your type of move

Government move

Movers pack, ship and deliver your goods.

Good fit if you want less hands-on work.

PPM

A personally procured move: you move some or all of it and get reimbursed.

Good fit if you're organized and want control.

Partial PPM

Movers take most of it; you move a few items yourself.

Good fit for valuables and must-haves.

The big five

AREA	WHAT TO THINK ABOUT
Housing	Base waitlists vary. Decide early between on-base housing and renting or buying off base. Commute and school zone usually pick the neighborhood.
Money	Ask about advance pay, travel entitlements and what gets reimbursed. Moves always cost more out of pocket than expected — build a cushion.
Family	Kids handle moves better with a say. Check school calendars and enrollment early, and plan for spouse jobs and license transfers.
Vehicles	Know how many cars you can drive or ship, and your new state's registration and insurance rules.
Pets	Book a vet check, confirm pet-friendly lodging on your route, and check housing pet and breed limits.

Rules change

Entitlements, weight allowances and reimbursement rules are updated regularly. Confirm anything that affects a decision with your transportation or finance office.

YOUR SUPPORT TEAM

Where to get help

You don't have to figure it out alone. These offices and tools exist to make your move easier — use them early.

On your installation

OFFICE	WHAT THEY HELP WITH
Transportation office	Household goods counseling, scheduling and claims
Finance office	Advance pay, travel entitlements and claims
Housing office	On-base applications and off-base referrals
Family support center	ACS, A&FRC, FFSC or MCFTB: relocation help, loan closets, newcomer briefs
School Liaison Officer	School enrollment and transitions
Your sponsor	Real, current local knowledge about your new duty station

Online

RESOURCE	WHAT IT'S FOR
Military OneSource	Moving resources and free consultations
MilitaryINSTALLATIONS	Contacts and info for your new base
Plan My Move	Custom moving checklists

READY FOR THE FULL PLAYBOOK?

Go step by step with the kits.

Worksheets, trackers and a complete binder setup for every stage of your move.

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