

MSOF QUICK-GUIDE MILITARY PCS MOVES

10 CAN'T-MISS TIPS

SPECIAL OPERATIONS FAMILIES

Moving is a significant, stressful, life event. Special Operations families often move less frequently than many military families; but regardless of how many moves you've experienced, life changes, kids grow, and with each move there are new things to consider. By utilizing these tips, you can save time, minimize stress to get settled, plugged in, and in a routine.

10 CAN'T MISS MOVE TIPS

1. **Know what you want and need.** Spend time setting and re-evaluating your goals for the next duty station. Consider the pros and cons of your current location. Try to incorporate and plan around your preferences and priorities at your next location.
2. **Research schools early.** Do not wait for official orders to begin looking into schools. Most preschools and private schools open registration between January-March of the previous year. Depending on your needs/preferences, you may limit education/childcare options if you wait until the last minute.
3. **Scout ahead.** If possible, make a quick trip to your next location, drive around, and get a feel of the area. This can help you decide what you want and keep you from making assumptions that you could regret later (consider traffic, commutes, safety, noise, schools, surroundings, etc.) You can even virtually scout ahead
4. **Consider planning hotel reservations in advance.** Book hotels in advance, especially on installations. You may need to adjust reservations, but it can save you time, money, and stress to plan accommodations in advance on both ends of the move.
5. **Storage Conditions.** Expect mold in storage buildings/rooms that are not climate controlled. Check them regularly so you can move valuable items before they are damaged or have to scramble when packing.
6. **Consider using a cargo carrier.** Carriers provide secure cargo space on top or behind your vehicle. This allows for a more pleasant and less stressful drive to the next post without the added tasks/stress that accompany owning a trailer.
7. **Make a "Go Bag."** A bag of daily essentials to keep nightly un-packing at a minimum on overnight stops.
8. **Take it with you.** Keep high value items, important documents, and personal/important mementos such as family photos with you during travel. Consider hand-carrying the "parts box" the movers pack.
9. **Moving Companies.** Movers may not pack "unfinished" rooms such as attics or garages. Check packing restrictions in advance and don't wait until the last minute to remove items from an attic/unfinished room.
10. **Planned or unplanned PPM.** If you have to complete a full Personally Procured Move (PPM), make sure to price and reserve movers and/or trailers/pods in advance. Securing a truck for your move can be challenging, impact other aspects of your move plan, and cost you excessive out of pocket expenses.

For packing lists and other military move resources, visit www.msafc.org.

The Military Special Operations Family Collaborative is a 501(c)3 organization founded in 2018 to enable all Special Operations families to live well. To learn more about the work of MSOF, please subscribe to our newsletter, visit our website, or find us on social media.

Copyright © 2020 MSOF, All rights reserved.

