

Reduce the stress from a PCS

With the busy moving season fast approaching, here are several tips to make the process easier for military families facing a permanent change of station.

The goal is to provide military families with the necessary information to assist them during this exciting and stressful time.

Most everyone wants to move during the summer, especially at the end of a month or week; unfortunately there is only so much Transportation Service Provider (TSP) capacity available and once it's booked up, service members need to have an alternate plan.

To help mitigate stressors, we offer these steps to assist in achieving the desired dates:

- When possible try to schedule move dates on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Avoid Monday and Friday.
- Avoid the last week of any month as tensions, delays and cancelations increase due to the sheer volume of moves.
- Start working on securing move dates immediately after actual PCS orders are in hand. Any delay will limit JPPSO's / local transportation office ability to accommodate service members' preferred dates.
- Provide JPPSO / local transportation office counselors alternate move out dates that are at least two weeks out from the original date.
- Be aware that due to overall TSP capacity issues we may need to utilize origin storage in order to get your property picked up. If so, this could delay or add time to your delivery at destination.
- If pressed for time, seek alternate modes or sources of transportation during such as a Personally Procured Move (formerly known as a Do-It-Yourself Move) as an option. Contact your local counseling office for PPM cost/incentive estimates.
- Avoid making major decisions or commitments until move dates are confirmed with the Transportation Service Provider or carrier.

JPPSO / local transportation office will utilize all resources available in an effort to accommodate service members during a PCS move, but adds that a service member's flexibility and involvement is critical throughout the stressful moving process.

For further information, contact your local Transportation Office or JPPSO.