

OVERSEAS BRIEFING

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INTRODUCTION

- Provide information on making a successful relocation or transition to your new duty assignment
- Country specific information available in a separate briefing. For more information on any military installation, go to www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil
- Be knowledgeable of factors pertinent to living at your new duty assignment
- Move with as little stress as possible



Purpose

- PCSing can be stressful even when you are just moving to a new installation within your current State. Moving overseas can increase the amount of stress you are under during a PCS exponentially! This brief is designed to ensure you are knowledgeable about the process and prepared for the tough move ahead. By empowering you with this knowledge we hope to give you the tools to foresee problems during your PCS before they happen and ease the stress you and your Family are under during this process.

AGENDA

- Sponsorship
- Orders for Travel
 - Shipments
- Privately Owned Vehicle (POV)
- Possible Financial Entitlements
 - Housing
 - Schools
 - Pets
- Miscellaneous Information
 - Culture Shock
- Geographically Separated Families



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LENGTH OF TOUR

- Dependent upon
 - Location
 - Dependents can be authorized/restricted.
 - If you are in a hardship tour area, your family may choose to visit, but check with your command before they come. Facilities, living conditions, political climate and support services should be looked at before bringing your family. If your family is not command sponsored, you will be responsible for transportation, travel and school expenses as well as other costs.



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Factors in Length of Tour

Length of tours depend on multiple things.

First where are you going ? If you are traveling to Europe, Hawaii and Alaska the tour length is 2 years for unaccompanied SMs and 3 years accompanied. In Korea the tour length is 1 year unaccompanied and 2 years accompanied. If you are PCSing to Africa or South America , your tour length will vary.

Also, Realize if you begin your tour unaccompanied and then wish to bring your Family later (due to Marriage, etc) you will have to extend your tour to meet the accompanied requirement to do so.

If you arrive at your destination and decide you would like to extend; you can do so with an exemption to policy memorandum. This is not a guarantee, but it is an possibility depending on your MOS and Unit.

COMMAND SPONSORSHIP

- Required for Family Member Travel
- Takes time so plan ahead

Command Sponsorship Program is the Army's way of ensuring your Family will have everything it needs (Medical Care, educational needs, place to live, etc) before allowing you to bring your Family to your new duty station. This process can be long and has a lot of paperwork that needs to be filled out.

Don't Wait until the Last Minute!!!

Also, Don't forget you can use the Army Community Service EFMP Program Manager as a resource during this process. Call 256-876-5397 for more information



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STEPS

- Obtain DA5888 (Family Member Deployment Screening Sheet) and DA7246 (Exceptional Family Member Screening Questionnaire)
 - Fill out 7246 and blocks 1-8 of 5888
 - Forms are available on the internet and can be filled out on line
- Make appt. for EFMP Screening for Family Members at Fox Army Health Center at 256-955-8888 (take both forms to the appointment)
 - FAHC Dr. fills out Part B of 5888
 - Determines whether or not EFMP enrollment is warranted

TYPES OF ORDERS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

- **Concurrent Travel**
 - Pinpoint assignment
 - Housing will be provided within 30-60 days
 - Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA)
 - FM's can travel with the Soldier or within 60 days of the reporting date
- **Deferred Travel**
 - FM's cannot travel with the Soldier
 - FM's will travel once housing is assigned
- **Denied Travel**
 - Did not receive “Command Sponsorship”



SOFA STAMPS

Status of Forces Agreement

- Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) is a contract the USA has with each host nation we have an installation or base on. The contract covers multiple areas, however, it applies specifically to you in that you need the Host Nations permission to live on their soil. Getting a SOFA stamp on the back of your Passport will allow you enter the Host Nation and reside there past the 90 day maximum for tourist passports
- Required to stay in host country for more than 90 days
- Can apply after receipt of Family Travel Message



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PASSPORTS

- No Fee (requested prior to PCS. Family members listed on your orders by name get a no fee passport if you are going overseas.)
- Tourist (your Family can use tourist passports if they already have them)
- Signatures of BOTH parents will be required for children under 16
- Even infants need their own passports
- For no fee passports, call the Passport Office at 256-876-5163
- Be sure to check with the passport office on post regarding a No Fee Passport. If you don't qualify, you can pick up an application for a normal tourist passport at the post office! Cost around \$70 to \$100
- for each person.

SPONSORSHIP

- It is recommended that you request a sponsor prior to traveling to your new duty assignment
- Sponsors can be your main point of contact for information on the unit, housing, cost of living, areas of interest, etc...
- You should fill out a sponsor request form DA5434 during reassignment interview



SHIPMENT OF BELONGINGS

- **Personal Baggage**

- You will be able to take suitcases when you travel. Check with travel about the number and weight of the suitcases you are allowed. You will be responsible for excessive charges if you go over the limits and you are not authorized to go over the limits. For example, an airline can charge up to \$100 for an extra suitcase over 50 pounds.

- **Hold Baggage**

- Hold baggage is a portion of your over all weight allotment and is for necessities that you can't bring on the plane, but will need immediately when arriving (School supplies, strollers/highchairs, kitchen supplies, cold weather jackets, etc). Hold baggage will usually arrive to your location within a few days of your arrival (or maybe even before you get there!) This is not the place for your Big screen TV!!



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SHIPMENT OF BELONGINGS (continued)

- **House Hold Goods (HHG)**
- HHG shipment is for the rest of your goods. They will take longer to get to you, so don't pack necessities here (Especially important documents) unless you have no other option. You will have weight allowances based on rank, type of assignment and location.
- **Storage**
- If you don't want to bring your items overseas, you can store them at the Governments expense until you get back!
- For your special duty assignment, this information varies. Contact Transportation at 256-876-3916 for further information and specifics.

POV SHIPMENT

- Timing of Shipment
 - One POV shipped at govt expense
 - Adhere to guidelines for shipping POV overseas (inspections, cleanliness, ...)
 - All POVs shipped overseas from the US are entitled return shipment
 - Transportation office will do the initial paperwork and give directions to port.
 - Reimbursed for one-way travel to the port. Atlanta is the port for Redstone Arsenal.

FINANCIAL ENTITLEMENTS (possible)

- **Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)**
 - BAH is paid only if you are living in economy housing
 - Before signing a lease off post you will have to bring it to the Housing office for review.
Reason 1: To make sure you are not being taken advantage of by your landlord.
Reason 2: to see how much your rent is...this will be your BAH (unless the rent is higher than your allotted allowance).
- **Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS)**
- **Cost of Living Allowance (COLA)**
 - Based on the cost of everyday living and varies
 - Overseas, COLA fluctuates monthly depending on the location and the exchange rate



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Financial Entitlements (Possible)

- For more information:
 - Visit <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/perdiem>
 - Contact the Relocation Assistance Program Manager at 256-876-5397

Housing

- MHF Installations for detailed information regarding housing.

www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil

- Army Housing Community Portal for floor plans and photos. Barracks available too!

<https://www.housing.army.mil>

- Automated Housing Referral can be accessed 24/7 for privately owned houses available for rent or purchase at www.ahern.com



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Housing

- Specific questions can be referred to Redstone Communities at 256-430-1517 or check out their website at www.redstonecommunities.com They can provide information on waiting lists, entitlements, priority)
- Utilize your Sponsor!
- Your Sponsor is another great resource. They can find out if there is a wait list and tell you about the different housing communities (on and off post).

SCHOOLS

- Installations will typically have schools from pre-K through High School
- Home Schooling is an option
- CYSS services are available
- Specific information on schools can be obtained through Relocation Counseling
- Contact the School Liaison Officer at 256-256-842-9642



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PETS

- Pets travel at the owner's expense
- Must have a rabies shot within 1 year and health certificate within 10 days
- Can fly as cargo, under the seat or via a pet shipping company
- Quarantine periods vary by location
- Breed Restrictions
- Most installations offer veterinary services
- For more information, contact veterinary services at 256-876-2441.



DRIVING

- Obtain a valid, current U.S. drivers license before you go. You must have a valid U.S. drivers license to obtain a AAA international driver's license.
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- Before you travel overseas, be sure to update your drivers license so that it will not expire during your tour. You **MUST** have a valid, current drivers license (Stateside) to drive overseas. (Doesn't apply to Alaska or Hawaii as you are still in the USA!)

Driving Overseas

- Check guidelines inspection required for auto registration
- You can use your registration or gas card
- Drive safely! Streets are narrow
- Insurance rates may be higher
- Upon arrival at your destination you will have to take a driving class and pass a written test in order to receive a theatre drivers license (USAREUR, KFOR, etc) Once you have that license you can drive at your destination. Driver's handbooks are available on line and through your relocation office.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Spouse employment ~ (ASEP) Check with your ACS Employment Readiness Program for resume assistance, job hunting tips and more. Call 256-876-5397 for more information.
- Climate conditions will vary. Be prepared with appropriate clothes



Things to Consider

- Health Care differences. Check with your sponsor and contact your health care provider. Call Tricare at 800-444-5445 for more information and enrollment
- Deployment. Contact your gaining unit for information versus rumors. Your ACS provides mobilization and deployment support for you and your family. Call 256-876-5397.

CULTURE SHOCK

- Moving to a different country and culture can affect you more than you realize.
 - Fascination stage; where you will be fascinated with the new surroundings
 - Reality Stage; frustrated with problems encountered such as the language barrier or traffic problems (No Super Walmart??)
 - Finally, you will become acclimated and adjusted to the new culture. With acceptance, you will enjoy your stay.
- Don't just stay on the installation. Get out in the community and get to know the people and culture
- Be sure to attend both inprocessing briefings and newcomers orientations at your new location



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Hearts Apart Program

- If you will be separated from your Family during this assignment, speak with the Relocation Readiness Program Manager or Mobilization and Deployment Program Manager about Hearts Apart support for geographically separated families.
- Call 256-876-5397 for more information.



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RELOCATION COUNSELING

- Individualized services are available to help you gain additional information and plan your move.

Make an Appointment Today!

Call 256-876-5397

Top by Building 3338, Redeye Road

Monday through Friday

7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



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