

Let's pack it out

SUGGESTED PACK LIST

You will have three basic shipments for your PCS: Unaccompanied Baggage or Express Shipment, regular Household Goods, and non-temp storage.

In this list, I will also give suggestions for Small Package Shipment packing and packing your backpacks for the flight.

I suggest sending your HHG about 2-3 months in advance if you can- that means you'll be living on air mattresses and only some of your small appliances, clothing, and some smaller items that can go in Express shipment.

Send UAB and NTS as soon as you can without compromising comfort. We spent a week in a vacation rental then a month with family, so we sent UAB 5 weeks before we left. But most people send it just a week or so before their flights.

I suggest these timelines because that gives your stuff time to get to Okinawa sooner! Our UAB was here before we were, and HHG's arrived two days after we did!

I suggest getting [these labels](#) to affix to all boxes! I also put one of the stickers on our ziplock bag that held our passports and our PCS binder.



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EXPRESS SHIPMENT

At the writing of this guide, you are allotted 2,000lbs for your Express or UAB Shipment. It doesn't seem like a lot, but it's a lot more than you think!

They do NOT allow furniture items or televisions (except 1 small TV).

Here are suggestions on what to send UAB:

- Uniforms needed soon after arrival
 - As much clothing as you can
 - Anything that you don't need now or for the trip should go
 - As much small decor as you can
 - A small television (must be under 42")
 - Your pots, pans, glasses, dishes, and utensils (get a cheap set from Wal-Mart, use paper/plastic, or use the Loan Locker if you have one)
 - Appliances like Air Fryers or Crockpots if you can
 - *Sheets, towels, blankets, pillows, and any other bedding
 - Curtains and curtain rods
 - Broom
 - Smaller vacuum like a stick vacuum- they may tell you you can't because of the battery but the battery is small enough that it is actually allowed
 - *Toilet paper
 - *Paper towels
 - *Cleaning rags
 - *Hangers
 - Non-perishable American snacks
 - *Air mattresses if you can
 - Raincoats, rain boots, and umbrellas- it will be rainy
 - *Activities for the kids like coloring books and crayons, puzzles, or other activities that they like
 - *Stuffed animals and other toys the kids can go without for awhile
 - Rugs (you will want to purchase rugs ahead of time if you can- there is no carpeting here and rugs are expensive to purchase and most do not ship)
 - Books
 - Any light items you can fit in there!
 - Toolbox
 - Bikes and scooters for kids
- *Whatever you think you may want right away should go into your [Small Package Shipment](#) if you decide to utilize that. You have to estimate weight ahead of time, so nothing too heavy!
- We use [these bins](#) for our Small Package Shipment.

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EXPRESS SHIPMENT

Write down the contact information for your UAB company here:

Company name:

Phone Number:

Storage Location:

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HOUSEHOLD GOODS

The amount of weight you're allotted is based upon on rank and the number of dependents, so be sure to check. You are allowed 100% of your allotted weight but it is NOT recommended to bring that much. On base and off base residences are small here!

HHG will be all your big stuff - furniture, TVs, etc. and whatever else you don't want going in your UAB or NTS.

- Beds
- Nightstands
- TV stands
- TV
- Computer (desktop)
- Desks
- Chairs
- Kitchen dining sets
- The rest of your dishes, glasses, and cooking items that didn't go in UAB
- Large decor like pictures and mirrors
- End tables
- Couch/sofa/living room items
- Large rugs (if they wouldn't take UAB)
- Bedroom sets
- Clothing that you don't need right away
- The rest of your bedding
- Vacuum
- Holiday decor
- Tools
- ProGear
- Books
- Weights, and other workout equipment
 - Purchase these items ahead of time if you think you might want them when you get there and don't have them yet. Workout equipment like bikes and treadmills are hard to find
- Fencing if you have a single family home
 - Purchase before you arrive if you want a fence. Fencing is expensive here but you can install a fence if you want!
- Lawn equipment if you have a single family home
 - You must maintain your own lawn! Bring a lawnmower and edger if you can.
 - You can rent them for free at Eagle Hardware if you don't want to bring these

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HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Write down the contact information for your HHG company here:

Company name:

Phone Number:

Storage Location:

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NON-TEMP STORAGE

You will be allotted non-temp storage (NTS). It will be part of your total weight limit, so you can't just put anything and everything in there. Storage is often not climate controlled, so expect you will have damage to items at your return.

There really isn't a list for because it is just stuff you don't want to bring but want when you get back.

Write down the contact information for your NTS company here:

Company name:

Phone Number:

Storage Location:



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SMALL SHIPMENT PACKAGING

This is a little-known resource and can be done with ANY PCS!

You can read more about it here: [Small Shipment Packaging](#).

This will be applied to your total weight of your move, so ensure that you are accounting for that.

You will pay for it ahead of time and do the reimbursement on the backend of your move.
KEEP ALL RECEIPTS!

You will be shipping to your FPO/APO mailbox, so ensure your sponsor has set that up and get the address from them.

You must mail USPS (United States POSTAL service) - that is the only one that will deliver to FPO/APO. If you live off base, you can pay for international shipment but that is expensive and complicated. Most people ship to their FPO/APO using USPS.

These are the bins we used: [Black and Yellow Heavy-Duty Bins](#)

Anything that can fit in these bins, up to 70lbs, can be sent in the mail. We sent:

- Books
- Toys
- Back to school clothes we purchased before we left Extra toiletries
- Necessary uniform items that we weren't carrying by hand
- Kids activities like coloring books, puzzles, and their favorite stuffed animals Air mattresses
- Light bedding and small towels

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YOUR SUITCASES

Each person is allotted five large suitcases up to 70lbs each, a rolling suitcase or bag for overhead compartment, and an under the seat bag on the Patriot Express. However, some civilian airlines won't allow that much luggage, even on orders, so you may be paying out of pocket before you get to SeaTac for travel on the Patriot Express.

To limit our haul and issues on the other side, we stuck with one large suitcase each, one roller each, and one backpack each. Be sure to pack any uniforms you might need immediately into your checked bags.

Here are some suggestions to pack in your backpack.:

- Snacks for kids and adults
 - They do have meals on the flights, and you can get food at the USO ahead of time if it's open. But I'd still bring snacks!
- AT LEAST two changes of clothes per person - more if you can!
 - These aren't the best of airlines that are contracted out for military flights, so you may be delayed in SeaTac or one of the other locations. Bring a change of clothes because sometimes they don't allow you to get your bags off the plane if you are delayed...even if it's for days
- Stuff for kids:
 - iPads
 - Books
 - Coloring
 - Window clings
 - Playdoh
 - Kinetic Sand
- Extra chargers - plugs and portable
- Blankets
- Neck pillows
- Regular headphones that plug in for the adults and the kids
- Sweaters- it does get cold on the plane sometimes!