

TIMELINE FROM ORDERS TO ARRIVAL

This is just a suggested timeline, because we all know that nothing the military does is standard when it comes to PCSing. But this is the basic timeline of what you should be doing as soon as those hard orders come into your hands..

ORDERS IN HAND? START THESE THINGS NOW

- Schedule your Overseas Screening (OSS) and start the process
 - If you are EFMP, homeschool, or have ANY health-related issues, your OSS may be delayed. But you can't make any other moves without it.
 - Pro-Tip: if you've been considering visiting your doctor for something that isn't too serious, wait until OSS is done. Because if you do it in between, it can delay it.
- Start your pet process immediately.
 - We didn't move here with a pet, but there are certain things you need to do like quarantine, testing, etc.
 - Secure your pet spot on the Patriot Express AS SOON AS you get OSS and Area Clearance complete!
 - You will need a 72-hour vet clearance as well, so make sure you keep that in mind when you are getting ready to fly out.
 - Here is a [Facebook group](#) to answer questions
 - Don't forget to apply for [pet allowance!](#)

4-6 MONTHS OUT

- Schedule your moves. You will have three moves:
 - Express (Unaccompanied Baggage or UAB)
 - Household Goods (main shipment or HHG)
 - Non-Temp Storage (NTS)
- Apply for No Fee Passport and get tourist passports if needed
- Start making list of UAB, HHG, and NTS
- PURGE! Houses are small here- you'll only want to take just what you need.

3 MONTHS OUT

- Finish OSS
- Have no fee and tourist passports in hand
- Get area clearance- schedule flights
- Ensure contact with sponsor
- Apply to [housing](#)
- Apply to Port to Home if desired

1-2 MONTHS OUT

- Order of shipments
 - HHG- 2 months minimum
 - UAB- 4-6 weeks if you can; 1-2 weeks if you can't
 - NTS- Same as UAB
- Start looking at vehicles to purchase- average price is \$2k-\$5k
 - Most people purchase from those who are PCSing out
 - Facebook groups for cars
 - [Best Used Cars Okinawa](#)
 - Almost all the housing resell pages
 - You can also purchase from local dealerships like Johnny's Used Car Sales and BC Okinawa
- Confirm flights
- Create PCS binder
- Create pack list for flights
- Confirm mailbox
- Ensure that housing has all necessary documents for application

WEEKS BEFORE YOUR FLIGHT

- Purchase your vehicles- coordinate with sponsor if possible
- Test pack out
- Ship packed bins
 - There is a little known resource called [Small Package Shipment](#). You add this to your HHG weight, but it allows you to MAIL contents to your new location.
- If elected to do so- Have sponsor set up Port to Home, secure government furniture, and get items from loaner locker.
- Schedule Newcomer's Brief
 - Start studying for your driver's license test

DAYS BEFORE YOUR FLIGHT

- Look up your flight 72 hours beforehand [here](#).
- Finalize PCS binder
- Mail your [Small Package Shipment](#)
- Get pet certificate completed by vet within 72 hours
- Order groceries from the commissary and have sponsor pick them up
- Purchase snackies, charge those iPads, and prepare for the long trek!