



Answers for
Sailors, Marines & their families

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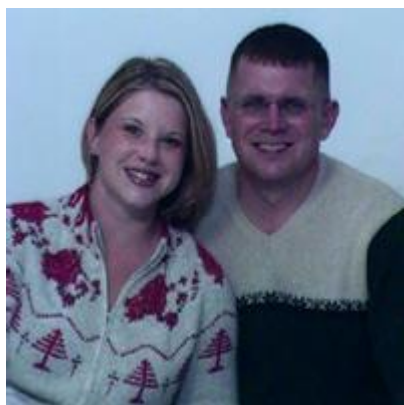
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How I Moved Across Country (Without Him)

By Jean Grieger, as told to Jennifer Dyer Cornelissen for LIFELines
(Last Reviewed Wednesday, September 07, 2005)



"Even though I thought the move across the country would be difficult, it was easy compared to the time Al and I had spent apart."

JEAN'S CHECKLIST
Tips for Moving Cross
Country

When I learned my husband Al was coming home from a seven-month tour on the USS Constellation, I was thrilled. However, my excitement quickly turned into concern when I found out I would have to move our belongings and 1-year-old son Ryan from Augusta to San Diego by myself. Instead of being intimidated, I chose to stay upbeat and see the trip as one last adventure before our reunion.

Even though I thought the move across the country would be difficult, it was easy compared to the time Al and I had spent apart. The experience taught me that even without my husband's help, relocating is possible if you plan, use available resources, and adopt a positive attitude.

My first step was to visit the base's personal property office (PPO). At PPO I used Al's permanent change of station (PCS) orders and my power of attorney (POA) for Al to arrange a do-it-yourself (DITY) household goods shipment.

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1. Plan ahead and be positive.
2. Get a power of attorney before deployments.
3. Obtain your spouse's orders.
4. Place your name on the base housing waiting list while you research off-base options.
5. Visit PPO to arrange household goods shipment.
6. Contact TRICARE about transferring medical coverage.
7. Budget for moving expenses.
8. Ask a friend or relative to drive with you.
9. Pack carefully and plan your driving route.

MORE INFORMATION
Articles Available in
LIFELines

[Ten Things to Make Your Move Better](#)

[Relocation Shock: It Can Happen Anywhere](#)

[With Proper Planning, PCS Moves Don't Have to Break the Bank](#)

[Driving to a New Duty](#)

Once that task was completed, I realized that moving can be expensive. So, I budgeted for meals, hotels, gasoline, and unexpected costs. To help pay for these expenses, we received a [dislocation allowance \(DLA\)](#) and [temporary lodging expense \(TLE\)](#) reimbursement. The personnel support detachment (PSD) at AI's duty station gave me more details about expenses.

From there, I placed our names on the waiting list for [base housing](#) in San Diego by faxing AI's orders to their office. Housing lists can sometimes be long, and getting on them is a priority, even if you choose to live off-base when you arrive. Once that was accomplished, I researched off-base housing options on the telephone and reviewed the Standard Installation Topic Exchange Service (SITES) website. Later, I chose to live on-base because housing was available immediately and no security deposit was required.

My next concern was medical care. I contacted TRICARE to learn how to transfer coverage once we were at our new duty station. I also used AI's PCS orders to get copies of our medical records from our family practice clinic to carry with us on our trip.

The last step in our move was to drive to our new duty station. To make the trip easier, I recruited my grandmother to travel with us. Using directions that I downloaded from Mapquest, we planned our driving route from Georgia to California. I also called our automobile insurance company and confirmed our emergency roadside coverage was in place.

From there, we carefully packed our belongings and carried them in a rented trailer attached to our SUV. For safety, we traveled with a mobile phone, car charger, and emergency car kit. We also included a basics kit filled with diapers, snacks, and

Family Life Resources

Follow these links to special resources outside of LIFELines.

[MILITARY ONESOURCE](#)



[Operation Dear Abby](#)

[Military Spouse Careers](#)

[LIFELines Policy on Links](#)

<p>Station</p> <p>DITY: Do It Yourself Move, A Heavy Proposition</p> <p>Finding a Rental Property in Your New Town</p>	<p>toys for Ryan. My grandmother and I took turns driving, and we stopped frequently to stretch our legs.</p> <p>When we arrived in San Diego, I checked into the Navy Lodge. The next day, I visited the base housing office, and we moved into our unit a few days later. They gave me a relocation kit that included a base phone book, area information, and military resources. I then contacted the local TRICARE office to transfer our medical coverage. After my grandmother flew home, Ryan and I spent the remaining time unpacking our household goods and waiting for Al's return.</p>
<p>HOT LINKS Resources on the World Wide Web</p> <p>SITES</p> <p>TRICARE</p> <p>Navy Lodge</p> <p>Mapquest</p>	<p>Looking back, I'm proud of myself for moving across the country and setting up our household without my husband. When Al walked through the door of our home for the first time, he truly came home to his family. Our reunion was the perfect reward for all of my hard work.</p>



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