




If you are a 1st term (Fort Jackson is your 1st duty station after completing ALT or OBC), you MUST call, (803) 751-5256, to make an appointment; do not complete this briefing online. Thank you.

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INTRODUCTION

- Provide information on making a successful relocation or transition to your new duty assignment
- Be knowledgeable of factors pertinent to living at your new duty assignment
- Move with as little stress as possible

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- 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.

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AGENDA

- PRE-ARRIVAL:
 - ~ Length of Tour
 - ~ Sponsorship
 - ~ POV & HHG Shipments
 - ~ Online Resources
 - ~Travel Docs
 - ~Pets
 - ~Hearts Apart
- ARRIVAL:
 - ~ Mode/Means of Transportation
 - ~ Entry Point Operations
 - ~ In-processing Procedures
 - ~ Temporary Lodging

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There are three very important phases of your PCS overseas:

- The first step **PRE-ARRIVAL**. During this phase you will make decisions about obtaining a sponsor, HHG and POV shipments and shipping your pets. You will also have to obtain and update travel documents. Online resources and local programs will be introduced to help you in this process.
- The second phase is the **ARRIVAL** phase. Here we will go over what to expect during your transition from this installation to your new installation.

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AGENDA (cont'd)

- POST- Arrival:
 - ~Financial Entitlements
 - ~Electricity
 - ~Cultural Adaptation
 - ~Vehicle Reg
 - ~Housing
 - ~ACS Services
 - ~Employment Opportunities
 - ~Health Care
 - ~Local Info
 - ~Driving
 - ~Weather/Climate
 - ~Schools/Education


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- Phase three will discuss the **POST-ARRIVAL** phase. We will go over everything you need to know once you are “boots on the ground.”

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LENGTH OF TOUR

- Dependent upon;
 - Location
 - Dependents authorized/restricted

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The 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.

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.

Also 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 a possibility depending on your MOS and Unit.

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COMMAND SPONSORSHIP

- Required for Family Member (FM) Travel
- Takes time so plan ahead
- Steps
 - Obtain DA5888 (FM Deployment Screening Sheet) and DA7246 (Exceptional FM Screening Questionnaire)
 - Fill out 7246 and blocks 1-8 of 5888
 - Make appt. for EFMP Screening for FM at clinic (take both forms to the appointment)
 - Dr. fills out Part B of 5888; this determines whether or not EFMP enrollment is warranted

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Command Sponsorship Program is the Army's way of ensuring your family needs are met (Medical Care, educational needs, place to live, etc) before authorizing you to bring your family to your new duty station. This process can be lengthy with documents and procedures. **Please don't wait until the last minute.**

The EFMP may have already communicated to you about this. However, if you are not aware you can utilize ACS EFMP, (803) 751-5256, as a resource during this process.

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SPONSORSHIP

- Mandatory to request a Sponsor (E1-E6; WO1-W03; O1-O3)
- You should fill out a sponsor request form DA5434 during reassignment interview

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IAW Fragmentary Order 02 to Operations Order 12-065 dtd 251855Z Jul 12, it is now mandatory for Soldiers (E1-E6; WO1-W03; O1-O3) to request a sponsor (not an option anymore).

- You should have already fill out a sponsor request (DA5434). Guidance was provided to you via your “Reassignment Notification” email from DHR.
- Your unit will assign you a sponsor and you will be emailed the sponsor information. If you do not receive a sponsor, you should contact Mr. Williams, Fort Jackson Sponsorship Liaison, at (803) 751-5578 for assistance.



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SPONSORSHIP (Cont'd)

- Sponsors can be your main point of contact for information on the unit, housing, cost of living, areas of interest, etc...

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A sponsor can/will:

- Write you a “Welcome Letter”.
- Make your transfer as easy as possible
- Research and answer questions about your new job and the surrounding community
- Handle relocation arrangements, depending on where you’re assigned and how much your sponsor is willing to do. Ask.
- Assist you with in-processing the unit and installation.
- Orient you to the unit or activity and the community.
- If nothing else, make sure you attend the Post Newcomer Orientation so that you will know what your installation has to offer. Mandatory attendance at most installation.

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SPONSORSHIP (Cont'd)

- Sponsors can be your main point of contact for information on the unit, housing, cost of living, areas of interest, etc...
- Youth Sponsorship Program & Spouse Sponsorship Program may be available at your new installation

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A sponsor can/will (Cont'd):

- Make your sponsor aware of important issues or any unique needs you may have, i.e., get married enroute.
- Ask your sponsor about housing options, schools, shopping, the community, activities, etc. Consider your sponsor your 1st new friend at the installation.
- If you are married and have children, ask about spouse sponsorship and youth sponsorship programs at your new duty station.

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TYPES OF ORDERS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

- Concurrent Travel
 - Pinpoint assignment
 - Housing will be provided within 30-60 days
 - Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA)
 - Family members can travel with the Soldier or within 60 days of the reporting date
- Deferred Travel
 - Family members cannot travel with the Soldier
 - Family members will travel once housing is assigned

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Depending upon whether you received Command Sponsorship prior to departing you may be traveling on one of the following types of orders

- Concurrent travel means all requirements for visas, Command Sponsorship and SOFA/no fee passport have been completed. Further, your Family Members will be on your orders. This all means that they will travel with you to your new duty station through official travel.
- Deferred Travel means some of the above mentioned steps are not yet complete. The Soldier will travel to new duty station without the Family Members and they will travel on official orders once all above steps are complete.

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TYPES OF ORDERS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

- Denied Travel
 - Did not receive “Command Sponsorship” (Family cannot travel to new duty station; can request a compassionate reassignment through your S-1)

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- Denied Travel means the Army is unable to provide the care and or services your Family requires and they therefore will not be able to travel to your new duty station. If this occurs you can request a compassionate reassignment through your S-1.

Most tours are 2 years for unaccompanied Soldiers and 3 years if accompanied.

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 a possibility depending on your MOS and Unit.

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Hearts Apart Program

- For FM who will be separated from their Soldier due to deployment or an unaccompanied tour.

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For FM who will be separated from their Soldier due to deployment or an unaccompanied tour, the Hearts Apart (HA) Program was established to provide support services to families residing on post or in the surrounding community who are living separately from the military/civilian sponsor because of mission requirements.

With consent, Families relocating away from Fort Jackson (FJ) will receive HA services from the closest installation identified by the service member.

For those families who are staying in Columbia, every effort will be made, and documented, to inform the family of the services available in this area.

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Hearts Apart Program (Cont'd)

- Things to consider before departing:
 - Special Needs (EFMP)
 - Financial Support
 - Transportation
 - Family Document Checklist

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Some things to consider before departing:

- Special Needs – Do you have an Exceptional Family Member; are they enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program?
- Financial Support – Have you made arrangements to provide financial support to your spouse/children through allotment or some other means.
- Transportation – Does your spouse or children guardian drive? If not, will that be a problem, and what kind of arrangements have you made?
- Family Document Checklist – You want to ensue your Family members have the following documents. Updated ID Cards; Power of Attorney. If you're Single Parent, Dual Military or Pregnant Soldier, do you have a Family Care Plan. Does the Family care provider have the installation access letter? You can contact SJA if you have questions about Power of Attorney.


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SOFA STAMPS

- Required to stay in country for more than 90 days
- Can apply after receipt of Family Travel Message

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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.

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SOFA STAMPS

- Passports (Travel office, Strom Thurmond Bldg., Room 100) (803) 751-5128
 - No Fee (prior to PCS)
 - Tourist
 - Joint custody of child under age 16, contact Legal office.


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- Soldier must have orders listing Family members before Family members can apply for a “no fee” passport. Family members **MUST** have a No Fee Passport, if on orders. A tourist passport cannot substitute for a “no fee” passport. Be sure to contact with the passport office regarding a No Fee Passport. A tourist passport is good to have if you will be traveling between countries to sightsee/shop.
- If you have joint custody of a child under age 16, be sure to contact the Legal office prior to departing the U.S.
- ***Note: Children under age 16 must have both parents present for passports or court order showing guardianship.***


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TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- Entry visa (Can apply prior to departure from US) & Official Passports
- Visa (Permanent Resident) for non US Citizen dependents
- Command Sponsorship
- Orders

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Before you travel, you need a lot of paperwork!

- Entry visa – as long as everyone has official passports, has military ID and is on orders – they will receive a SOFA stamp at the airport. Ensure that they DO NOT check “Visitor” on their embarkation card on the plane. If they do, they will receive the wrong stamp and will need to go back to have immigration to remove that stamp and place the correct stamp on the passport.
- Visa – for non US Citizen dependents: Not needed to come to Japan as long as they are on orders and have a US Military ID card. If coming from a foreign country same deal, but they should see legal department as soon as possible to work on a visa for re-entry into US when tour in Japan is completed.
- Must have command sponsorship for your Family to travel with you. **Must have orders.**

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HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Transportation Office, Room 102,
(751-5137/5138)

- Hold Baggage
- House Hold Goods (HHG)
- Storage
- For your special duty assignment, this information varies. Contact Transportation for further information and specifics.


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- 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). The arrival time for your Hold baggage will vary depending on where you're going. This is not the place for your Big screen TV!!
- 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.
- If you don't want to bring your items overseas, you can store them at the Government's expense until you return.
- **You will receive more information when you receive your Transportation brief from the Transportation office.**



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 **POV SHIPMENT**

Transportation Office, Room 102, (751-5137/5138)

- Timing of Shipment
- One POV shipped at Gov't 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

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The Army will ship one vehicle to your duty station. You will have to drive it to the port (Charleston) if you're leaving from S.C. (the Transportation office can provide you with a list of ports)

Don't wait until the last minute to ship vehicle as they take quite a while to reach your destination.

You will receive more information when you receive your Transportation brief from the Transportation office.

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PETS

Veterinary Clinic (803-751-7160)

- 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

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Must have the supporting documents for your pets, 1 year rabies shots. You can also acquire additional specific information on the installation's pet policy by visiting the Military website, <https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/>

You will receive more information when you receive your Transportation brief from the Transportation office or you can contact the Veterinary Clinic, 803-751-7160.

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Housing

- Military Installations for detailed information regarding housing.
<https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/>
- Army Housing One Stop
<https://www.housing.army.mil>
- Specific questions can be referred to the Housing Division (ie: waiting lists, entitlement, priority)
- Utilize your Sponsor!


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- Visit these links to see what kind of housing is available at your installation.
- You can also get specific questions answered by visiting the Housing Service Office 4514 Stuart Ave (close to Caldwell Dental Clinic) or by calling (803) 751-5788/7566.
- Your Sponsor is another great resource. They can find out if there is a wait list, tell you about the different housing communities (on and off post) and maybe even assist you in getting on the waiting list if necessary.

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Housing – Miscellaneous Information

- Government support furniture is limited
- A request for furniture support can be signed when signing for housing (check quarters for existing furniture)
- ACS Lending Closet

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- You can borrow beds, tables, chairs, couches, dressers, night stands and wardrobes from the Housing office at your overseas installation until your household goods arrive.
- If you live off post you may also borrow dishwasher, refrigerator, washer and dryers.
- You may borrow basic items such as pots, pans, dishes, strollers, etc for 60 days from ACS lending closet. Certain locations also offer GPS and cell phones.

These are questions you can ask your sponsors to check for you or you can contact the housing and ACS offices prior to arriving.



Housing – Miscellaneous Information (cont'd)

- Bulky furniture may be too large to fit into the quarters, especially if quarters have stairwells
- European electrical current operates at 220 volts; USA 110 volts

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- There are two types of power converters for your 110 appliances: Transformers & adaptors. Transformers convert the power from 220 to 110, this means you can plug American appliances into the transformer and use them. Be aware that transformers are expensive and come in a variety of wattage sizes. Do not overload your transformers!
- An adaptor is a plug that attaches to the end of your appliance and then is plugged into the 220 socket. **AN ADAPTOR DOES NOT CONVERT THE VOLTAGE!** If you have a “dual” voltage appliance (such as a laptop), you can use an adaptor. However, if you use an adaptor on a non-dual voltage appliance, you will ruin that appliance when you plug it in!
- Most appliances will have the voltage information located on the plug or near the plug attachment.

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SCHOOLS

(<https://installations.militaryonesource.mil>)

- Installations will typically have schools from pre-K through High School
- Distant learning opportunities are available for some stateside colleges. You can still qualify for financial aid overseas.
- Home Schooling is an option
- CYSS services are available with same basic services, including Day Care and Family Child Care
- Specific information on schools can be obtained through Relocation Counseling

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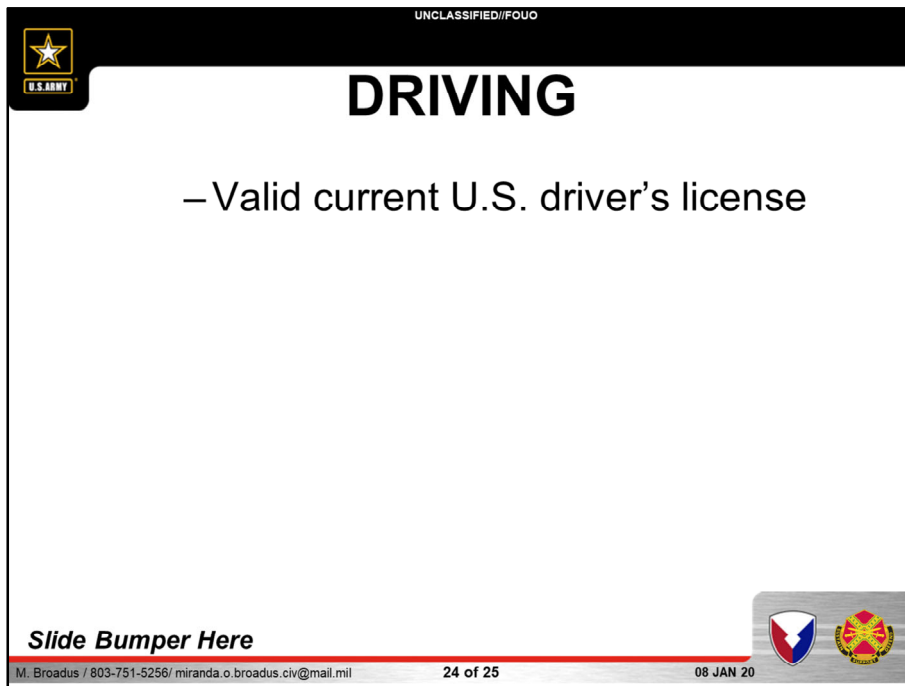
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If you have specific questions about schools at your new installation, contact your local School Liaison Officer (SLO), (803) 751-6150 who can contact the SLO at your new installation or you can ask your Sponsor. The schools are DoD. Some students may have to be bused depending upon assignment.

Visit military installation website for designated installation for detailed information (i.e.: location, requirements, school calendar)

You can also go to the military installations website:
<https://installations.militaryonesource.mil>

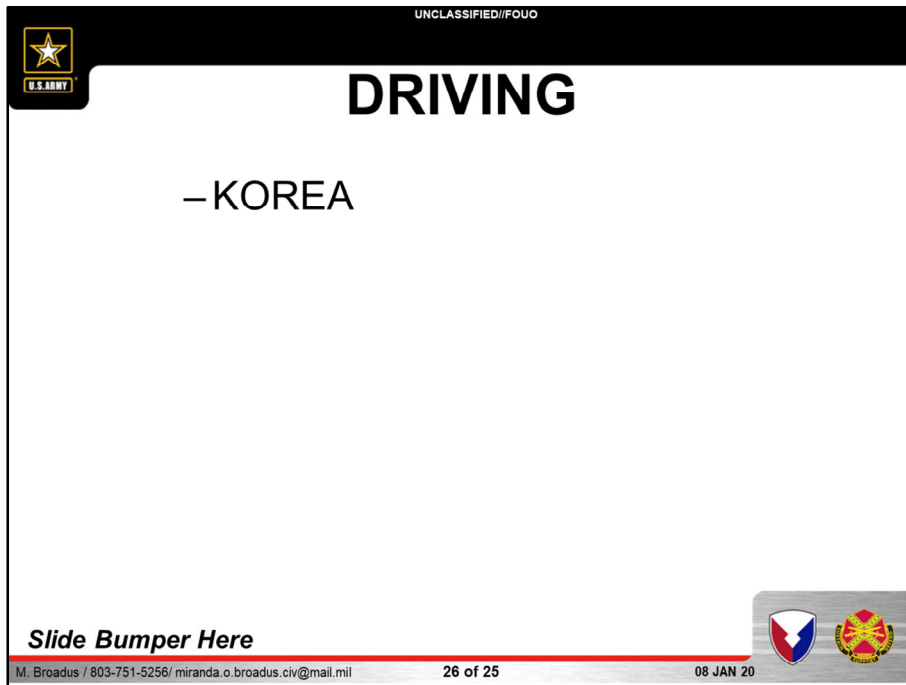


- **Driving:** Make sure your driver's license will not expire while you are overseas. You will need it to get a license overseas. In some states, if your license expires, you may be required to obtain a permit and undergo drivers testing all over again. To avoid this hassle upon your return to the states, be sure to renew your license prior to expiration, or check the rules in the state that issued your driver's license.
- Upon arrival at your destination you will have to take a driving class and pass a written test in order to receive a theatre driver's license (USAREUR, KFOR, etc). Once you have that license you can drive at your destination.



Germany:


- Driving will be different there. Be careful when driving on the Autobahn!
- Your vehicle will have to pass German inspection before registration.
- Use your registration or gas coupons when purchasing gas.
- Germany driving test is hard so you may have to study more. There is a Drivers Handbook and Examination Manual for Germany and Korea in your packets.



Korea:

- Roads tend to be crowded with autos, bicycles, and pedestrians
- Poor drainage, narrow lanes, rough roads, few sidewalks
- Winter Driving; Beware of ice on the roads.
- Summer Driving; Expect rain from May through July


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DRIVING - MISC

- Check guidelines inspections for auto registration
- Streets are narrow
- Insurance rates may be higher

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- Driving overseas is very different than driving in the states. You have to check guidelines for inspections for auto registration. Your sponsor can assist.
- Roads are not like here in the States. Streets are narrow. Bringing your F350 truck or suburban or hummer may not be the smart move! Be sure to check with transportation to ensure your vehicle will be allowed in that particular country.
- Insurance rates can be higher so check with your insurance company before moving overseas to inquire about overseas coverage especially if you have USAA or Geico.

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THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Spouse employment
- Climate conditions
- Health Care differences

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Things to Consider:

- If you have a spouse who will be seeking employment he/she should visit the ACS Employment Readiness Office once you get there for Spouse employment assistance.
- It may be colder, hotter or more humid where you are going, make sure you take appropriate clothing!
- Contact the Tricare Benefit Office prior to leaving to ensure you understand what needs to be done once arriving to your new installation to access care.

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THINGS TO CONSIDER (Cont'd)

- Deployments
- Pack out Day

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Things to Consider (Cont'd):


- Use your Sponsor to get information about local health facilities and get information about upcoming deployments or field exercises.
- When pack out day arrives, be sure to be ready. Have all your items you do not want the mover's to pack in a separate, locked, room. Be sure you do not pack important papers (shot records, birth certificates, etc.) If you have small children, have someone watch them for the day because it is hard running behind your child and watching the movers pack your valuables.

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 **RELOCATION READINESS PROGRAM**

- ✓ Relocation Assistance Counseling
- ✓ Welcome Packets (QR Code)
- ✓ Military Installations:

www.installations.militaryonesource.mil/



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If you are a 1st term Soldier (Fort Jackson is your 1st duty station after completion AIT or OBC) you are required to receive 1-on-1 relocation assistance counseling by calling 751-5256.

Relocation assistance counseling is provided on an individual basis to outbound transferees. It's primary focus will be on pre-departure counseling and relocation planning. Personnel preparing for their first permanent change of station (PCS) move or first overseas tour are the targeted audience.

The QR code to the military installations website is provided for you or you may access the URL above at your convenience to get an electronic welcome packet for your new installation; if you encounter any problems, please contact ACS, 751-5256.


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 **RELOCATION READINESS PROGRAM (Cont'd)**

✓ Plan My Move:
<https://planmymove.militaryonesource.mil/>

✓ Lending Closet

✓ Make ACS Your 1st Stop



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- Plan My Move creates a custom checklist for your move, filled with information about the tasks you need to complete and how to complete them. Your checklist is tailored to the unique needs that you or your family have. Access the QR Code or the URL above at your convenience.
- The ACS lending closet provides basic household items for temporary loan to incoming and outgoing families. Items include pots and pans, dishes, silverware, irons and ironing boards,, sleeping mats, baby items, and other items.
- When you arrive your new installation, **make ACS your 1st stop.**

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ARRIVAL (MODE/MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION)

- Traveling with kids
 - Take along toys, blanket & extra clothes
 - Activity bag (games, crayons, books, batteries)
 - Take copies of orders & index card with SM info


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Children activity books are available for long flights and while riding in the car. This is a way to keep children occupied. Contact ACS to make an appointment to pickup items for your children.


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ARRIVAL (MODE ENTRY POINT OPERATIONS)

- Flights are very long, about 9-20 hours including the stop-over and ground transportation (depending on starting point)
- Pack a bag with basic toiletries, a complete set of ACUs and a set of PTs
- ****Hand carry essential paperwork--orders, leave requests, passports, ID, etc...****

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Ensure you hand carry your essential paperwork!
Keep in your possession on the flight.

Things to think about: medicine; important documents (passport, birth cert, marriage license, drivers license, medical records, etc); uniforms and other military items you will need to in-process.

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IN-PROCESSING PROCEDURES

- ✓ Upon arrival at airport, your sponsor, unit rep or military liaison will arrange transportation
- ✓ A bus may transport you and your Family
- ✓ Your sponsor or unit rep should meet you upon arrival at your installation with a welcome packet
- ✓ Depending on time of arrival, you will probably meet with the in-processing personnel the next business day to start in-processing procedures

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Now lets talk about the Arrival phase.

- Prior planning is **EXTREMELY** important during this process. Ensure your sponsor knows your flight information ahead of time in order to schedule the appropriate pick up option.
- For those going to Camp Zama, a military bus will transport you (this requires prior reservation by your sponsor). Soldiers of higher rank may receive exception to be picked up by unit/sponsor at airport. Do not leave airport without permission from Military Liaison.
- Be sure to let your sponsor know your flight itinerary.


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POST ARRIVAL FINANCIAL ENTITLEMENTS

- Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA)
- Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA)
- Cost of Living Allowance (COLA)
- Move-In Housing Allowance (MIHA)
- For more information about DoD Per Diem, Travel, & Transportation Allowances - Visit <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil>

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These are some of the acronyms you will hear when individuals begin to talk about moving as they pertain to your travel OCONUS.

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 and all requests made by you have been met.

Reason 2: To see how much your rent is, this will affect your OHA.

Be aware that Americans over-use their utilities so when living off-post; learn to conserve electricity or you might be paying out of pocket expenses on your utilities due to that overuse.

Cost of Living Allowance fluctuates monthly depending on the location and the exchange rate. It is meant to compensate for the difference in cost of living from CONUS.

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POST ARRIVAL FINANCIAL ENTITLEMENTS (Cont'd)

- For more information about DoD Per Diem, Travel, & Transportation Allowances - Visit <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil>

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You can go to the defense travel website to get more information on per diem, travel, & transportation allowances.

Note: Keep all travel documents in a safe place. You will settle your travel expenses when you in-process at your new duty station.

You will get more detailed information when you out-process Fort Jackson Finance office.

When you in-process your new installation, the Finance Office and your S-1 are the POCs for entitlements. Check with them to find out if you are entitled and how much your entitlement is.

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TEMPORARY LODGING ALLOWANCE (TLA)

- Generally, 60 days maximum
- Exception to policy is established by the Installation
- Payable in 10 day increments
- Must file a claim
- No advance authorized

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TLA - To defray the cost of temporary lodging paid in OCONUS areas while you await gov't quarters or until you find off-post housing.

Before signing a lease off post you will have to bring it to the Housing office for review to make sure you are not being taken advantage of by your landlord. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT.

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OVERSEAS HOUSING ALLOWANCE (OHA)


- Payable if Government Quarters are not available
- Rate ceiling vary depending upon grade/
Location

For more information about OHA, visit:

https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Docs/Fact_Sheet_OHA.pdf

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The Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) is designed to partially offset housing expenses at overseas duty locations when you have to live in privately leased housing on the local economy only when government-leased or on-base housing is not available. The Overseas Housing Allowance Program is a reimbursement system that takes into consideration the amount Service members spend on rent, utilities and associated move-in costs.

Make sure you consult your Finance Office, Housing office, or Legal Assistance office upon your arrival.

Click on this link to get more information about OHA:



https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Docs/Fact_Sheet_OHA.pdf

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 **COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE (COLA)**

- Compensate members for the average difference between day-to-day living cost (**excluding housing costs**)
- Costs overseas as compared to average costs in the states
- For more information about OHA, visit:
https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Docs/Fact_Sheet_OHA.pdf

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When you live OCONUS, you are given a COLA (except Korea) because it is expected that basic necessities will cost you more. The entitlement is to help minimize your “out of pocket” costs.

The Cost-of-Living Allowance, or COLA, is paid to Service Members to partially offset high costs when stationed overseas (including Alaska and Hawaii). COLA helps maintain purchasing power so you can purchase about the same goods and services overseas as in CONUS. It does not reimburse expenses, but is designed to offset higher overseas prices of goods and services. It does not compensate for remoteness, hardship, or non-availability of goods and services.

Cost of Living Allowance fluctuates monthly depending on the location and the exchange rate.

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MOVE IN HOUSING ALLOWANCE (MIHA)

- must be eligible for an Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA)
- intended to defray move-in costs associated with occupying member-leased private sector housing covered under the OHA program
- not intended to cover move-out costs


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MIHA is designed to cover expenses for major appliances, improvements, security, rent-related taxes or fees

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TEMPORARY LODGING

- ✓ On-post lodging in Japan is typically limited depending on time of year
- ✓ On post lodging in Germany is typically small
- ✓ Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA) is authorized in 10 day increments for up to 60 days in lodging
- ✓ If staying off-post, out of pocket expenses can occur
- ✓ Important: Sponsor assist with this prior to arrival

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If lodging is full you will be given a statement of non availability and you will have to find lodging off post. Ensure your sponsor gets a reservation (on post or off) prior to arrival.

-*60 days is what the JFTR authorizes for TLA, however local installations can choose to authorize less.*

-Depending on location, you may have to pay out of pocket for off post hotels costs until your TLA kicks in.

-Normal lodging wait time is ~14 days

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VEHICLE REGISTRATION

- ✓ All vehicles 3-4 years or older must go through "control technique" before they can be registered. Registration fees apply
- ✓ Married Soldiers may register 2 vehicles without an exception to policy

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-The "control technique" will determine if your vehicle is conforming to European vehicle standards.

-Winter or all-season tires are required by law during winter months

-There is an annual road tax on cars in Belgium based on vehicle engine size. You are exempt from this tax for one car.

-If you intend to bring two vehicles, the second will be taxed unless your spouse is also a service member or employed by the government. A statement of work will be needed for the exemption.

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CULTURE ADAPTATION

Moving to a different country and culture can affect you more than you realize

- Fascination stage; fascinated with the new surroundings
- Distress Stage; frustrated with problems encountered such as the language barrier or traffic problems (“Oh My God, there’s no Super Wal-mart”)

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Stages of shock. Example: (“Oh my God, there’s no Super Wal-mart!!”)

Step 1: The Fascination Stage: Like any new experience, there's a feeling of euphoria when you first arrive to a new country and you're in awe of the differences you see and experience. You feel excited, stimulated, enriched. During this stage, you still feel close to everything familiar back home.

Step 2: The Distress Stage

Everything you're experiencing no longer feels new; in fact, it's starting to feel like a thick wall that's preventing you from experiencing things. You feel confused, alone and realize that the familiar support systems are not easily accessible.

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CULTURE ADAPTATION (cont'd)

- Re-integration stage; you refuse to accept the difference you encounter; you're angry, frustrated and hostile to those around you

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Step 3: Re-integration Stage

During this stage, you start refusing to accept the differences you encounter. You're angry, frustrated and even feel hostile to those around you. You start to idealize life "back home" and compare your current culture to what is familiar. You dislike the culture, the language, the food. You reject it as inferior. You may even develop some prejudices towards the new culture. Don't worry. This is absolutely normal. You're adjusting. This is actually a pretty common reaction to anything new. Think back to when you started a new job or moved to a new house or a new city or when you moved in with someone. Any adjustment can cause you to look back in awe and wonder why you made the decision to change.


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CULTURE ADAPTATION (cont'd)

- Autonomy stage; this is the first stage of acceptance; you start feeling like yourself again
- Independence stage; finally, you will become acclimated and adjusted to the new culture. With acceptance, you will enjoy your stay.

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Step 4: Autonomy Stage

This is the first stage in acceptance. I like to think of it as the *emergence* stage when you start to rise above the clouds and finally begin to feel like yourself again. You start to accept the differences and feel like you can begin to live with them. You feel more confident and better able to cope with any problems that may arise. You no longer feel isolated and instead you're able to look at the world around you and appreciate where you are.

Step 5: Independence Stage



You are yourself again! You embrace the new culture and see everything in a new, yet realistic light. You feel comfortable, confident, able to make decisions based on your own preferences. You no longer feel alone and isolated. You appreciate both the differences and similarities of your new culture. You start to feel at home.

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 **CULTURE ADAPTATION** (cont'd)

- Don't just stay on the installation. Get out in the community and get to know the people and culture
- Get children involved in cultural classes (cooking, etc.)
- Volunteer opportunities for FM
- Be sure to attend both in-processing briefings and newcomers orientations at your new location
- Some installation may require you to attend an Intercultural Relations Workshop

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- Get out; don't just stay on the installation.
- Volunteer opportunities allow spouses to get out of the house and also pay for childcare.
- Some installation may require you to attend an Intercultural Relations Workshop where you'll get the opportunity to experience some local culture; food (visiting a local restaurant), visiting a home, how to ride public transportation, etc.
- Visit the local stores, attractions; go on MWR events. Take advantage of these services; cost little.
- Get children involved in attending cultural classes (cooking, languages, etc.)
- Don't waste a once in a life time opportunity

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ONLINE RESOURCES

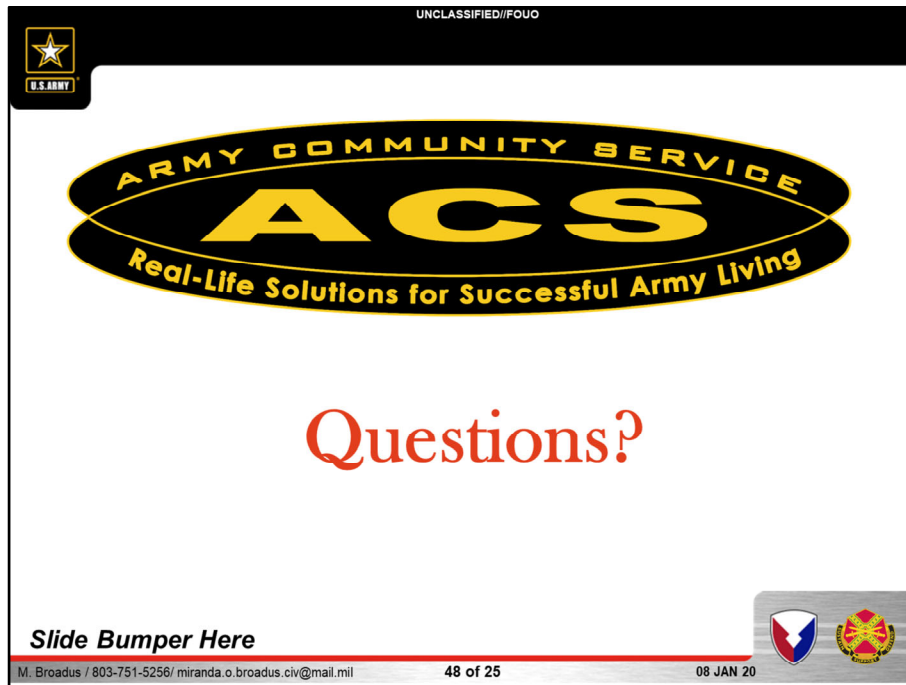
- Military Installations:
<https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/>
- Plan My Move:
<https://planmymove.militaryonesource.mil/>
- Military One Source:
www.militaryonesource.com
- On Post Housing/Barracks website:
www.housing.army.mil
- DoD Per Diem, Travel, & Transportation Allowances
<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil>

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These are online resources we talked about previously and is worth visiting; really good information to assist with your PCS move.



If you have any questions, please contact ACS,
(803) 751-5256 or for specific questions regarding
the following:

Housing: (803) 751-5788/7566/7567

Transportation: (803) 751-5137/5138

Finance: (803) 751-6669

Passport: (803) 751-5128

Command Sponsorship: (803) 751-5578

**Requested A Sponsor But Have Not Received A
Sponsor:** (803) 751-5578