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10 Apps & Sites to Make Your Next PCS So Much Easier

by Meg Flanagan



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We just finished a monster of a PCS. And while everything went pretty well, I would have sure loved a little more support with organization and streamlining. Perhaps something in the literal palm of my hand? Luckily, there are tons of new apps out there designed for just this purpose. From service-specific apps to more general designs, there is sure to be an app (or two) out there to help your military family have an easier PCS!

When you're on a tight timeline with about a million balls in the air, it helps to have everything in one place. These apps will set your military family on the path to make your next PCS easier!

My Ultimate PCS: Developed by military spouses, Moni Jefferson and Maria Reed, this simple, streamlined app keeps everything together! There are options to sync between the app and your calendar, making hitting deadlines so much easier! Plus, you can plan every stage of your trip, monitor checklists and take photos of all your high-value items before they get packed up.

My PCS Mobile: The Navy just launched a brand new way to track and monitor PCS moves – but it's just for sailors. Best of all: no app needed! Launch this all-in-one app from any browser, anytime. Get started at the Navy App Locker!

MilitaryByOwner: House hunting is one of the most challenging aspects of any PCS. Trying to hit the sweet spot of BAH, ideal commute, great schools and good neighborhood is hard. MilitaryByOwner makes it easier with home for rent or sale by military families – just like you! You can search by base, BAH and commute distance. Plus, since everyone is military, your new landlords totally get the PCS process.

PCSMYPOV: You've got two cars and you're moving cross-country. It can be a logistical nightmare for sure. Deciding who drives, what gets shipped and how much you're willing to pay is stressful. Take some of the stress out of your PCS with this simple car shipping service – with an accompanying app, too! Search shippers, peek at rates and finalize your POV's big move.

Google Maps: Know what worse than getting lost in your new hometown? Actually, no that is the worst. Stay in the know about where to go with Google Maps (or Apple Maps or Waze or your other favorite GPS app). With Google you can do a quick check of your surroundings for restaurants, parks and grocery stores. Bookmark important locations, like your child's school or the best running trail.

Your Favorite Hotel App(s): Whether you are road-tripping or flying, you're going to need someplace to lay your head along the way. Download your favorite hotel app or apps to try to save a little green on great locations. Some great options:

• Hotels.com • Booking.com • Marriot Bonvoy • Kayak

BringFido: Have dog, will travel! Feel better about taking your puppy pal along for the adventure with BringFido. This app helps pet owners find hotels that will also welcome their pup.

Playground Buddy: Long TLF stays get old quick. Even just a few days of travel can be wearing, especially with kids. Find places and spaces to stretch everyone's legs with Playground Buddy! This app helps parents locate playgrounds nearby. Bonus: this app had listings for playgrounds all over the world!

USA Rest Stops: When you've gotta go, you've gotta go and USA Rest Stops can help you locate something close by ASAP. You'll be able to see where rest stops are located before you leave or search along the way. Plus, if you're trying to combine a bathroom break with a quick bite to eat, you can also check to see what each rest stop offers – including their hours!

Priority Pass: If you're passing through airports, you need to check out Priority Pass. It's basically your all-access pass to luxury airport lounges. Think: free food, faster(er) WiFi and maybe a hot shower. You can purchase an annual membership with Priority Pass, but many credit cards like Chase Sapphire or AMEX Platinum include this deal for cardholders. And these two cards specifically do not charge active duty troops the annual card fee! Which makes getting free Priority Pass a no-brainer for less stressful PCS flights.

What are your top tips or apps to make PCSing even smoother for military families?

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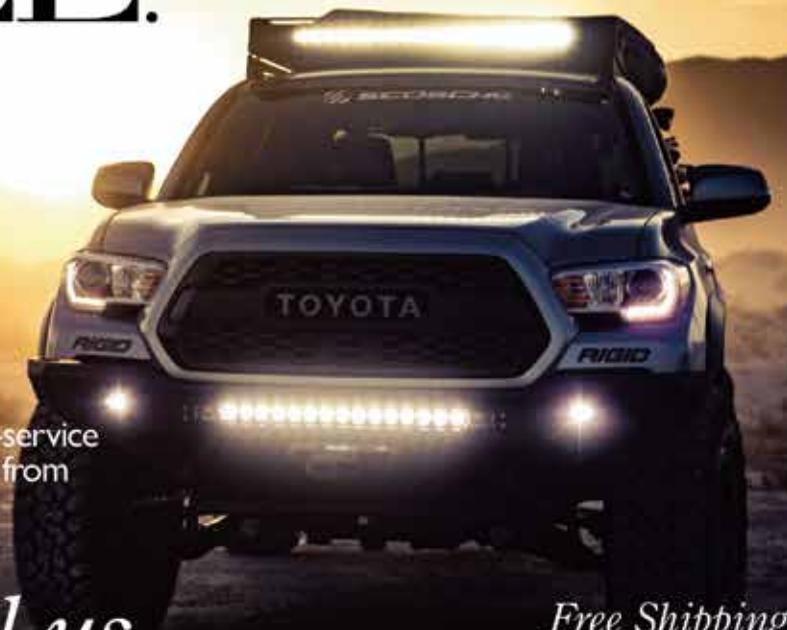
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