



by Bennett Leigh

We all know to save all our moving-related receipts for tax time...right? Right?

From buying moving supplies or renting dollies or trucks, even maintenance for your POV before the big move, any moving-related expenses not reimbursed by the government can always be used as a deduction on your taxes. But you also can save a little extra money in other ways, as well.

The best way to keep track of all those receipts is to keep them all in a big envelope or Ziploc baggie, then once you get settled into your new home, go ahead and scan all the receipts and save to a special file on your computer. It may be a pain at the time, but you will thank yourself come tax time.

First, before you move, take this opportunity to pare down your stuff. Yes, the stuff piled in your garage or basement. The clothes, bicycle or toys your daughter outgrew a few years ago...it is now the perfect time to sell these things on eBay, craigslist, or in a garage sale — even in your local paper. Some newspapers offer free or cheap ads for items costing less than \$100 or \$50.

And once in your new home, you can turn around and sell those moving supplies on the same sites—and at least recoup a little of your money!

## Do It Yourself

With so many installations being affected by BRAC, more families are moving than ever before—putting even more strain on relocation offices and moving contractors. It may make more sense for you and your family to make a Personally Procured

Transportation Move (formally called a Do-It-Yourself (DITY) Move) — especially if you have a smaller family or just not a ton of stuff.

When a member selects this option, they can move their own household goods (HHG) and collect an incentive payment from the government. This option is available for most types of orders including permanent change of station (PCS), temporary duty (TDY), separation or retirement, or assignment to, from, or between Government quarters.

Members may use this option to move all or a portion of their authorized weight allowance and can receive up to 95 percent of what the government expected to pay for the move. This computation is based on actual, constructed or authorized JFTR weight allowance transported, whichever is less.

The Transportation Office will estimate the constructive cost of the move based on estimated weight to be moved and the authorized mileage from the origin to destination. Mileage is computed based on point-to-point mileage set forth in Defense Table of Official Distances.

You may be entitled to an advance operating allowance to help with your operating cost; this allowance is limited to 60 percent of the anticipated Government shipping cost. You must check with your counselor to see if you are eligible, as each branch of the Armed Forces varies on the entitlement. If eligible, this allowance helps defray the cost of rental vehicle, gasoline, oil, tolls, packing material, moving equipment, and other services directly related to the move.

Members may choose a combination

move split between a government arranged HHG (PPGBL), local contracted, non-temporary storage, and Personally Procured Transportation. If a member elects split shipment, incentives are based on the member's full JFTR weight allowance (if the member did everything on his/her own) or the balance of the JFTR weight allowance (if the member made additional shipments under the same order).

Upon completion of your move, you will be required to submit paperwork, and certified weight tickets to determine your final incentive payment. Your counselor will advise you on what paperwork is required and to whom to submit it. At this point, the actual incentive payment will be computed and sent to the Accounting and Finance Office; they in turn, will pay you.

Do keep in mind that any extra money you make on your move paid to you by the government is considered income and is subject to Federal Income Tax.

If you are going it alone, be sure to check out sites like craigslist to buy your boxes and moving supplies — especially if you are moving later in the busy summer moving season. You can pay a fraction of buying them retail and get the same quality supplies the professionals use.

But don't throw away all those boxes just yet—they make a divine distraction for your kids once you get into your new house and before the satellite or cable gets connected. ●

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Share your best tips for a budget-friendly or otherwise successful PCS move with other service members and military families! We may feature your tips in our next relocation guide. Send your tips to [Editor@AmeriForce.net](mailto:Editor@AmeriForce.net). Copy becomes property of AmeriForce Publishing, Inc. for use in its magazines or on its website, and may be edited for space.