

# The DITY Program

By Michele M. Murray

## If you've received orders to move, consider:

- Do you have time to do the entire move yourself?
- Do you want to ensure that your belongings get the best treatment during your move?
- Are you physically capable of loading and unloading on both ends of the move?
- Will you have family and/or friends whom are willing to help on both ends of the move?

If you answered yes to all the questions above, then there is an alternative to the government-handled move — The Personally Procured Move Program, i.e., Do-It-Yourself (DITY) Move. DITY a voluntary program available to both military members and the next of kin of a deceased member eligible to ship household goods at Government expense.

## Some obvious advantages of a DITY move include:

1. Time — when you receive orders to move to another area, you are authorized permissive TDY and/or travel time in order to take care of all your moving arrangements. If you make a DITY move, you will usually be given additional time to handle your move.
2. Total control — The DITY program allows you greater control — from deciding which moving service you want to how much of the actual move you want to handle alone.
3. Economical — You may save money if the size of your move is manageable.

As of September 2003, the DITY Program authorizes a 95 percent monetary incentive on government constructive cost, i.e., the amount the government would have otherwise paid had they performed the move. Under the DITY Program, the service members' responsibility is to coordinate, finance and arrange for packing, crating and moving household goods via commercial means.

Once the service member resolves that the DITY move is right for him/her, the first stop is the Transportation office for authorization and approval. Be prepared to complete a DITY Information sheet, the DD Form 2278 and to present a copy of your Temporary Duty, Permanent Duty Travel, Separation or Retirement orders as proof of your upcoming move. If the DD Form 2278 is not completed, you will not receive payment under the DITY program. This form shows the constructive Government Bill of Lading or contract cost for moving household goods.

One may be authorized an advance operating allowance not to exceed 60 percent of the estimated government cost to defray out of pocket moving expenses such as rental equipment, household mover charges, packing material, etc. Advance payment can only be drawn 10 days prior to your move.

Exceeding costs the government would have paid are not reimbursable. Over estimating the hauled weight and drawing too much money as an advance requires repayment to the government. Likewise, if total move costs are less than the DITY allowance provided by the government, then the service member is obliged to keep the difference. DityMovers.com recommends overestimating your projected expenses by approximately 10 percent.

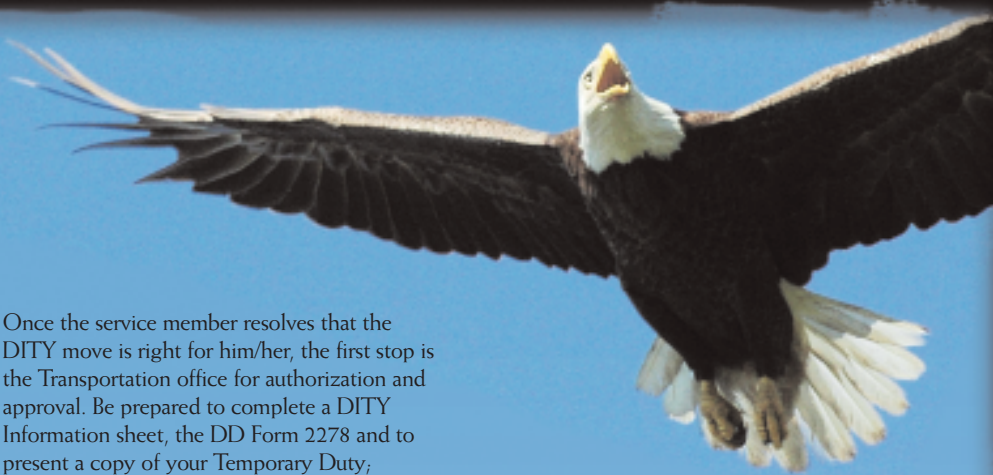
## A DITY move may be performed in any combination of the following ways:

- Rental Trucks
- Rental Trailers
- Full Service Movers
- You-Pack/We-Drive
- Personally Owned Vehicle

Rental trucks and trailers are allowed by each service for DITY moves. However, each branch of service has regulations concerning authorized privately owned vehicles. Therefore you need to contact the Transportation Office to determine if your vehicle qualifies. Once your moving vehicle has been approved, you must obtain the necessary equipment and materials to safely transport your belongings.

## Use the following guidelines to estimate truck size needed for your move:

- 10-Foot Truck: . . . 1 to 2 Furnished Rooms
- 14- to 15-Foot Truck: 2 to 3 furnished Rooms
- 18- to 20-Foot Truck: 4 to 5 Furnished Rooms
- 22- to 24-Foot Truck: 6 to 8 Furnished Rooms



Generally, homeowners' and renters' insurance policies do not cover your household goods while they are in transit. Under the Personnel Claims Act, the government carries \$40,000 worth of household goods insurance on a DITY move as a gratuitous payment statute, which the military component establishes rules and conditions necessary for payment. Consequently, before renting a truck or trailer, check your auto insurance policy to ensure you are properly covered. Additional insurance must be purchased by you and is not reimbursable.

Instead of transporting your own goods, the fastest growing option for DITY moves is "You-Pack/We-Drive." Specifically, some companies transport all or some of a service member's pre-packed belongings to their destination. This may be a favorable option for someone concerned about damaging valuables in transit.

After settling on a vehicle or trailer, the vehicle must be weighed empty and loaded, using certified scales. Trailers must be weighed unattached and attached to the towing car. Remember you forfeit your reimbursement if you neglect to get both certified weights. Each weight ticket should contain the following: name and location of the scale; date; identification of weight entries (i.e., tare, gross or net); and the signature of the weight master. Additionally, include a copy of your orders and vehicle registration if a personally owned vehicle is used.

It becomes the movers' responsibility to maintain receipts for expenses. Expenses claimable on a DITY move include payments to rental agencies for rental vehicles, packing materials, and moving equipment such as hand trucks, furniture pads, oil, tools and weighing expenses. Some unclaimable expenses include, tow dollies, tow bars, auto transporters, insurance, sales tax, meals and lodging. Some of these may be reimbursed via your finance office.

Only you can determine whether the DITY Move will work best for you. While a monetary reimbursement is a great motivating factor, research all of your options early enough that you have time to make an informed decision. Ultimately, you will have to decide which course of action will work best for you and your family.