



You Got Orders to Guam: Now WHAT?



Guam is an amazing island to explore, but...

Like anywhere (anything) else, it comes with some challenges! We've put this resource together for you to centralize the most important information we want you to have. Happy reading!

"Guam was declared rabies-free during 1972. In order to maintain this status, the government has strict quarantine requirements for the importation of dogs and cats. All dogs and cats brought into Guam from other than rabies-free areas of Hawaii, Australia, and the British Isles must undergo one of three quarantine periods of 120 days, 30 days, or 5 days at a Department of Agriculture-approved animal quarantine facility".



Bringing Your Pets to Guam

The process can be lengthy and expensive, depending on your pet(s) quarantine requirements: get started early!

- Find quarantine requirements [here](#)
- Find online social media resources [here](#)

Household Goods/Personal Property ([Mov.Mil](#))

HHG's should be shipped as early as possible (60+ plus days prior to arrival to destination, if possible).

Make sure that your transportation providers pack Household Goods (HHG's) correctly! Lightweight straps for motorcycles, not packing dishes adequately, placing picture frames facing each other without packing material in between, and placing proper padding/materials around furniture are a few examples.

Companies should crate your HHG's in front of you at your house. If this is impossible, they must allow you to see it go into the crate. They should seal the crates in front of you with seals that you sign. The same seal should be present when you receive your shipment.

Personal Owned Vehicle (POV) Shipping

POV's should ship as early as possible (60 plus days prior to arrival at destinations, if possible).

Keep in mind members do receive travel entitlements to the nearest [Vehicle Processing Center](#) (VPC); this includes the VPC location becoming an authorized departure point for your PCS move. For example:

- a) A member in Central Florida is heading to Guam, their nearest VPC is Atlanta, GA. The member should receive orders to Atlanta and back to their duty station for mileage/per diem.
- b) Or the member can drive their POV to Atlanta, GA and then fly from Atlanta to Guam. Joint Travel Regulations allows members to depart from the nearest airport or location of their duty station to the new duty station, or from the VPC location to the new duty station.

Ask Your Sponsor!

Overseas moves are stressful and can take a toll on you! Be sure to ask your sponsor questions regarding entitlements, such as travel entitlements, HHG's shipment, expenses reimbursements, etc. Once receiving orders, it is highly recommended to maintain communication with your sponsor every couple of weeks to ensure questions are answered.

The service member will be met at the airport by their sponsor. They will make arrangements to welcome them when upon arrival, as well as providing transportation to their lodging. Service members must make sure their sponsor is fully aware of the following details:

- Flight arrival time to Guam
- Total family size, whether single or with family
- Number of suitcases and/or luggage
- If arrangements to rent a car at the airport have been made on the part of the arriving service member
- Any special needs, such as car seats, etc.

Overseas Screening (OSS)

[Overseas screening](#) can take quite some time. Oncoming service members should start this process as soon as possible. In the event Base Honolulu should not respond as promptly as they could, members should reach out to their sponsor for assistance. Note that Guam is Base Honolulu's largest Overseas Screening customer, thus handling many cases at once; therefore proactivity in this case is key to a smooth transition.

Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA)

Families should book their temporary lodging as early as possible (6 months in advance if possible) and for at least 30 days, if not 45 or 60 to be safe. Members should book their room through the [Navy Gateway Inn and Suites](#) (NGIS). The NGIS has fully furnished two-bedroom homes available as TLA assigned hotels in order to accommodate families to include families with pets.

If the NGIS is fully booked and has no availability, the member can book an alternative hotel room [through the NGIS](#), or the member can ask NGIS for a *statement of non-availability* to make their own reservations, as long as the hotel utilized is a [TLA authorized hotel](#) (confirm with NGIS or the hotel directly to make sure).

The [PDTATAC website](#) has additional information regarding rates and regulations. The ADMIN/SPO in Guam can also help answer these questions. Please go through your sponsor. Members going directly into the barracks are not likely to receive TLA, if their room is available upon their arrival. Members should contact their ADMIN/SPO at Sector Guam through their sponsor to determine their situation accurately.

TLA cannot begin until you check-in with the unit. If the member arrives to Guam and decides to take leave in a hotel prior to reporting to their unit, the hotel costs become their sole responsibility. Members **MUST** check-in and report to their Command prior to receiving. Additionally, the first night upon arrival on Guam must be claimed as a regular PCS travel day and, therefore, is part of member's travel claim not TLA.



E-4 and below, as well as member with dependents are required to live in base housing.

Unaccompanied members E-5 and above will live out in the economy unless the Resident Advisor position is available .



Housing Accommodations

Moving costs in Guam are substantial. Local housing requires two months of rent upfront (first and last month), as well as considerate deposits to get commodities such as water established (\$500 deposit for water). In addition, electricity bills can run very high when living out in the economy due to extreme temperatures the island experiences all year long (85 – 90 F°).

[Overseas Housing Allowance](#) (OHA) is not the same as Basic Allowance for Housing ([BAH](#)) and is paid after the lease or purchase agreements have taken place (sometimes 3 to 6 months later!). This means members will usually not receive their first OHA payment until having lived in the place for a period unless advance OHA is paid. Additionally, if a member wishes to request living on the economy for an authorized reason from the CG Housing Manual, they should do so at least 45 days prior to arrival to allow the Sector Guam Command the time to review and forward the waiver request to the District Housing Office, and gain final approval prior to arriving.



Participating to the housing brief is mandatory within 48 hours of arriving on the island as housing arrangements of any kind cannot be secured without participation to this brief.

[Naval Base Guam Housing](#) provides Coast Guard living quarters on NBG. The policies associated with CG members and their families with regards to mandatory housing are slightly different than Navy policy; therefore, information relayed by Navy Housing may at times be incorrect due such discrepancies (ex: CG is not allowed month-to-month lease, but Navy is). Always stay in communication with your sponsor and your SPO office to avoid errors and delays.

It is recommended to complete the [HEAT application](#) as soon as possible. Although the application does not affect your housing priority placement, submitting the HEAT application will allow housing to have all your paperwork ready upon your arrival, so that you may begin your housing process immediately.

Wait times for housing depend on availability of units and can range from 1 week to 60 days. Four-bedroom houses usually have longer associated waiting times. There has been very little wait for two bedroom homes, but delays are always possible.

Rental Vehicles

Members do not receive reimbursement for rental cars or transportation costs associated with the PCS move unless their POV does not arrive by the promised date listed by the VPC on the shipment paperwork; however, delays do not happen often. If a shipment delay occurs, the member can receive up to 7 days at \$35 per day for a rental car. This is the only time reimbursement is authorized. In all other circumstances, members rent a

Vehicle out their own pocket. This is one of the major reasons for shipping a POV early, or as soon as possible.

Cell Phone Service

Cellular service from Continental United States based companies will not work or will charge international and roaming rates upon arrival to Guam. It is highly recommended that members have an unlocked cell phone device so they may subscribe to the local cell phone carriers service as soon as possible. It is important to prepare for this change while still being in the States, so that the member may simply insert a local SIM card in their unlocked device upon entering Guam.

The Chief Petty Officer's Association (CPOA), Marianas Guam Chapter has partnered with local cellular companies to provide arriving members with a cell phone and SIM card for approximately 7 days. Having an unlocked device may help expediting the process in the event of lack of devices availability. Incoming service members are advised to inform their sponsor whether they are in possession of an unlocked phone, so that CPOA may be ready to provide cell phone service upon arrival.

Passport Information

Coast Guard members are not required passports to come to Guam. If transiting through foreign countries (ex. Japan), however, passports will be required during travel. Service members and their families should have and understand their complete travel itinerary throughout their journey to Guam, or have a valid, unexpired passport to prevent possible issues.

Dependents are authorized no-fee passports. It is recommended that all dependents obtain a no-fee passport prior to transferring to Guam, in the event of emergency evacuation. This is especially important if medical issues arise requiring evacuation of a dependent to another location such as Japan, Korea, etc. There is a passport office on the island, but be aware of potential delays involved with applying/renewing OCONUS. Having a tourist passports on hand prior to arriving to Guam will allow Coast Guard to travel to neighboring countries during their stay on the island.

Schools Information (DODEA Schools)

The DODEA schools on Guam are highly desirable in the community. Please review the DODEA Guam websites ([McCool Elementary and Middle School](#); [Guam High School](#)) and review their [social media pages](#) to get acquainted with them and their policies.





Shipping and Goods Availability

Naval Base Guam has a Navy Exchange (NEX) within which service members will find a Uniforms Shop; however, Coast Guard uniform items can be very limited. It is recommended that incoming CG members ensure having a full “sea bag” issuance upon arriving.

Patio furniture availability is seasonal at the NEX. Even though Guam is a “summer all year round” territory, the NEX falls under Virginia’s headquarters office pertaining some seasonal supplies. If arriving later in the year, it is good to keep in mind that some items assumed to be available may not be on their shelves. This includes: patio furniture, paddle boards, kayaks, beach equipment/chairs, grills, etc.

Goods shipments take a considerable amount of time to get to Guam, both on an individual/ personal basis and a commercial one. Amazon, Walmart, and Target (only limited items) ship to Guam and goods can be expected between 10 days and 2 weeks. Some [social media groups](#) provide a full list of stores that ship to Guam and associated issues people experience during their online shopping ventures.



Driving in Guam

Guam Law states that military family members are required to get a [Guam Driver’s License](#) within 30 days of residing in the island. Active duty service members, however, are exempt from this regulation per the [Service Member Relief Act of 2003](#). However, this does not mean that active duty personnel may opt to not keep their licenses valid (unexpired), as such regulations vary from state to state. The same is valid for vehicles registration of vehicles transiting in Guam: if the active duty service member is the registered owner of the vehicle being shipped to Guam, they may opt to keep the vehicle registered in their state of residency. If, however, the vehicle is registered in the family member’s name (spouse), then Guam law is in effect and the vehicle must be [registered](#) locally.

Drinking in Guam

There is a [zero – tolerance](#) policy for drinking and driving on Naval Base Guam. Therefore, if upon entering or leaving the base service members are requested to take a random breathalyzer test (which cannot be refused), the member’s BAC cannot be higher than 0.0. Differently than in civilian surroundings, a BAC of 0.01 will cause the service member to receive a DUI from the base security. As a violation of lawful order for military members and for dependents, drinking and driving may result in loss of on-base driving privileges and potentially worse consequences.



Typhoons and Weather in Guam

Guam’s weather is referred to as “dry season” (January to June) and “wet season” (July to December). When major storms hit the island, the base will inform its residents of the withstanding Typhoon Condition of Readiness (TCCOR 1 to 4). Readiness conditions levels may affect access to NBG and transit within the base, depending on damage caused by the storm. Living on-base can help alleviate some logistics issues. It is best to keep in the know of TCCOR conditions on NBG Facebook [page](#).

Please Read the Below Statement Carefully!



*This Information is provided solely to assist members and families experiencing a smoother transition when coming to Guam. This is not intended to be an *official document* providing policy, regulations, or requirements. It is meant exclusively to help service members transferring to Guam with regards to their transition and relocation. It is, however, imperative that members do their own research, ask questions, and review policies and regulations on their own accord to ensure that they understand their entitlements and challenges they may have to overcome*.

| [GIVE FEEDBACK](#) | [CONTACT](#) |

