

PCS Dates: Separate Confirmed Orders From Planning Targets

Build a PCS date record that distinguishes official instructions, provider confirmations and your own planning targets.



Read the current online edition:

realtylistingco.com/learn/military-pcs-and-va/pcs-dates-orders-versus-targets/

The Problem

You have an expected move window, a possible closing date and several conversations about pickup. Those dates can start to look equally certain when they sit on one calendar. A home commitment based on a hoped-for date may become difficult when the shipment or housing plan changes.

Your goal: Create a dated evidence record for the few events that control your home decisions.

Sort Dates by Their Source

Make three columns: official instructions, confirmed arrangements and household targets. Use a short reference to the underlying record rather than copying orders into a shared planner. A date mentioned during a conversation belongs in the question log until the appropriate person confirms it. Keep the date recorded and the date the information was checked separate.

Show What Depends on Each Date

Beside pickup, travel, housing access and closing, write the event that must happen first. A delivery appointment may depend on a home being available; receiving a key may depend on a closing condition. Do not combine those events simply because you hope they occur together. Ask the responsible office or transaction professional which dependency matters.

Ask One Focused Confirmation Question

Use the official relocation or transportation contact for move arrangements and the responsible housing or closing contact for property arrangements. Ask whether a date is requested, scheduled or confirmed, and what could change it. Record the answer and any document reference. A generic checklist cannot confirm an appointment or interpret the terms of your orders.

Keep a Change Record

When a date changes, retain the earlier version and note who needs the update. Review connected bookings before changing them, including cancellation or extension terms. Choose a household follow-up date for the unanswered item, but label it as your planning target. Any official, contractual or claims deadline must be checked separately with its responsible source.

A Practical Example

Fictional example: Joe Poe writes a requested delivery date beside an anticipated home closing. Before booking a nonrefundable service visit, Joe learns that the shipment date is only a request. Joe marks the service appointment provisional and asks the provider about rescheduling terms. The record now shows an unresolved dependency instead of three apparently confirmed events.

Illustrative example, not a case history or a recommended legal outcome.

When to Get Help

Ask your installation relocation office for help locating the right contact when two sets of instructions conflict. Ask qualified counsel or your transaction professional about commitments already signed.

Sources and Further Reading

Source guidance reviewed October 26, 2026. The organizing steps and example are RealtyListingCo's educational framework.

- Military OneSource – Basics of a Military PCS Move

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/moving-pcs/plan-to-move/pcs-permanent-change-of-station-basics/>

- Military OneSource – Relocation Assistance Program

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/benefits/relocation-assistance-program/>

YOUR NEXT STEP CHECKLIST

Before You Move Forward

- ☐ Label the source of each date
- ☐ Separate requests from confirmations
- ☐ Identify housing and shipment dependencies
- ☐ Record who must receive an update
- ☐ Verify actual deadlines with the responsible source

One thing to do today: Choose the next three dates affecting your home and label each one confirmed or provisional.

Professional Advice Disclaimer

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