



MCCHORD'S LEGAL "EASE"

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Want a Smooth Move for Your PCS?

If you've never PCS'd before, it can be a very stressful event. The following tips and pointers can ease the transition.

Moving Your Household Goods w/the Travel Management Office (TMO)?

Before the movers pack all of your worldly possessions, make a detailed list of the "to be packed" items, especially if they are high value or unique/antique items. Make sure to include make, model, color, serial numbers, etc. The more detailed the better! The movers will create their own inventory too—be sure to review it before signing! Make sure that you don't have the movers take cash, jewelry, important documents, your checkbook, or other valuable items—take those yourselves!

Make sure you take pictures and/or videos of your special interest items, like furniture, fancy electronics, unique knick-knacks, etc. The pictures should show the entire item from all sides, as well as close-ups. Also, take a video of your TVs, computers, DVD players, etc. to show they were in proper working order before the move.

Remember that the mover's inventory will indicate the condition of your items. When you review the list, if you disagree with their marking of the condition, do so in writing (there should be room at the bottom of the inventory page to annotate this). You may feel rushed and decide to skip this, but it'll be worth it in the long run if you just slow down and take that extra time.

Take Care of the Legal, Medical, & Financial Stuff!

Make an appt at the Legal Assistance Office to get a will and powers of attorney so that you're covered in unforeseen circumstances. Also, get advice about whether you're eligible to cancel certain contracts (TV, internet, rental, etc.). Take care of necessary medical, optical, or dental appointments. Get any medical or school records, or otherwise find out how to have them forwarded at a later date. Be sure to settle all outstanding bills, cancel services, and forward mail with USPS.

Got Pets?

If you have pets, make sure all vaccinations are up to date. Get copies of your pets' medical records, too! This will be important for overseas

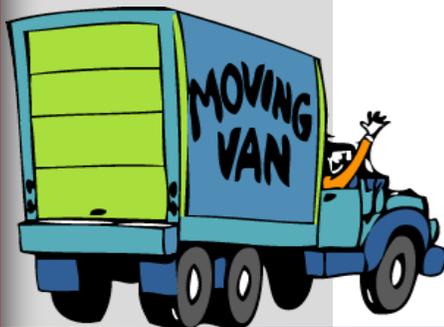


travel, and possibly even for a CONUS PCS, because you may need to provide these documents to a future landlord.

Got a Car?

Make sure you take care of maintenance before driving to your next location. If PCS'ing overseas, make sure your insurance is valid overseas, and get an official letter from the lien holder to take to the shipping port allowing you to ship the POV overseas.

For more detailed info, make sure you complete your Smooth Move Briefing located on your out-processing checklist on vMPF.



Irresponsible with Booze? You're Sure to Lose!

"In 2015, a staggering 27 percent of Team McChord's Article 15s involved alcohol."

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, approximately **One Third** of all jail inmates reported alcohol use at the time of the offense for which incarceration results.

- http://www.bjs.gov/content/acf/30_jails_and_alc

Summertime in Washington State is one of the most beautiful times of the year. This is the time where the clear skies and warm weather make for a perfect combination to socialize and have a few drinks with friends and family. While everyone is entitled to a great night, it only takes one mishap with alcohol to not only ruin the mood, but also an Airman's career.

Alcohol-related incidents are problematic not only for Team McChord, but for the Air Force as a whole. DUIs, drunk and disorderly conduct, and underage drinking are some of the most common UCMJ viola-

tions seen in today's Air Force. It is not uncommon to see Commanders taking action, ranging from LORs to nonjudicial punishment (Article 15), and even administrative discharges. In 2015, a staggering 27 percent of Team McChord's Article 15s involved alcohol.

While this article is not designed to make you refrain from ever drinking again, it is imperative that you plan responsibly if you are going to drink. If you plan to go out with friends, have a designated driver. You can always call a taxi or utilize programs such as Airmen Against Drunk Driving (AADD). When all else

fails, give a wingman or supervisor a call. Leadership will usually go the extra mile in order to make sure that you stay safe and help prevent you from making a costly mistake. Don't let alcohol derail your Air Force career, or land you in county jail. Plan ahead and be responsible so that you can enjoy yourself!



	<u>Court-Martial</u>	<u>Commanders' Other Options</u>	<u>Washington State Law</u>
<u>DUI resulting in personal injury</u>	<i>Maximum (assault):</i> - Dishonorable discharge - 3 yrs. confinement - Total forfeitures	<i>Article 15:</i> Reduction in rank; Confinement; Loss of pay; Extra duty; and or Restrictions. Discharge or dismissal. UIF, LOC/LOR, Control Roster, admin demotion	RCW 46.61.522 Class B Felony: Up to 10 yrs. confinement and \$20,000 fine.
<u>DUI w/out personal injury</u>	<i>Maximum:</i> - Bad conduct discharge - 6 mos. confinement - Total forfeitures	<i>Article 15:</i> Reduction in rank; Confinement; Loss of pay; Extra duty; and or Restrictions. Discharge or dismissal. UIF, LOC/LOR, Control Roster, admin demotion	RCW 46.61.502 Up to 1 yr confinement and \$5,000 fine. Potential vehicle seizure & forfeiture; court-ordered alcohol treatment
<u>Drunk on Duty</u>	<i>Maximum:</i> - Bad conduct discharge - 9 mos. confinement - Total forfeitures	<i>Article 15:</i> Reduction in rank; Confinement; Loss of pay; Extra duty; and or Restrictions. Discharge or dismissal. UIF, LOC/LOR, Control Roster, admin demotion	N/A
<u>Underage Drinking</u>	<i>Maximum:</i> - Dishonorable discharge - 2 yrs. confinement - Total forfeitures (Art. 92 Failure to Obey a General Order)	<i>Article 15:</i> Reduction in rank; Confinement; Loss of pay; Extra duty; and or Restrictions. Discharge or dismissal. UIF, LOC/LOR, Control Roster, admin demotion	RCW 66.44.270(2) Up to 1 yr confinement and \$5,000 fine; court-ordered alcohol treatment
<u>Drunk and Disorderly</u>	<i>Maximum:</i> - 6 mos. confinement - 2/3 forfeitures for 6 mos.	<i>Article 15:</i> Reduction in rank; Confinement; Loss of pay; Extra duty; and or Restrictions. Discharge or dismissal. UIF, LOC/LOR, Control Roster, admin demotion	RCW 9A.84.030 Up to 90 days confinement and a \$1,000 fine; court-ordered alcohol treatment

Specs & Punishments:

Which Legal Office? There's a Difference!

At a traditional Air Force Installation, the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate would handle all legal matters for the base, Airmen, dependents, and retirees. But here at JBLM, things run a little differently. The Army takes lead on all legal assistance matters with help from the Air Force on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the afternoon (estate planning only).

Therefore, JBLM Service Members have additional resources to ensure their

personal legal needs are met. There are two offices members can utilize. First is the JBLM Main Legal Assistance Office which is located on Lewis Main in bldg 2027A. Second is the McChord Field Legal Assistance Office located on McChord in bldg100 (first floor).

If you are a short-notice deployer and the two legal assistance offices do not have an appointment available before your departure, you can make an appointment with the Of-

fice of the Staff Judge Advocate located on McChord Field in bldg 100 (third floor). This is only for the deploying service member; family members must make an appointment at one of the two legal assistance offices.

Make sure that you are heading in the right direction when trying to find the Legal Assistance Office! And if you're not sure, Just Ask (JA)! Comm: (253) 982-6305

If deploying on short-notice, the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate will help you with a will, without an appointment.



Backyard BBQ

What better way to celebrate and boost morale with your unit than to have a squadron wide event! Throughout the year we often find ourselves attending squadron events, everything from summer picnics to holiday parties. One common question might be "What do we do in order to have alcohol served and/or purchased at our event?". Well it is all based on the circumstances. We all must remember we have rules and regulations to abide by and that we must always conduct ourselves professionally. One unique aspect, however, is Joint Basing. Due to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Army and Air Force, the Army service component exercises the authority to establish policies for the sale of alcohol and alcohol abuse prevention programs on the joint base. Ft Lewis Regulation (FL Reg)

210-1 establishes the guidance that we must follow. These rules incorporate Army Regulation (AR) 215-1 and 600-85. Although these regulations do not directly apply to Airman in regard to alcohol consumption on base, they are extremely informative and are roughly similar to the applicable Air Force Instruction.

AFI 24-219, para 1.2, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, and 1.2.4 are the applicable guidance for alcohol consumption. Members should maintain professionalism and not consume alcohol during professional time or while performing their official duties. Therefore members should not return to duty if they consume alcohol during these types of functions. Also, members may consume alcohol in government facilities only in locations and at time approved by their command-

er. So if you plan on inviting members from another squadron, ensure they have approval from their commander as well. Lastly, members consuming alcohol must maintain professional relationships and proper decorum.

Some other things to consider are where the event is being held. Often times other venues require a special permission to purchase and/or serve alcohol. So make sure you check with your venue about their requirements. Additionally, if you intend on having civilian employees attend, an official alternate duty location will have to be submitted and approved for events involving alcohol. The Office of the SJA can assist in the waiver process! Our office is always here to help with any questions or concerns that you may have.

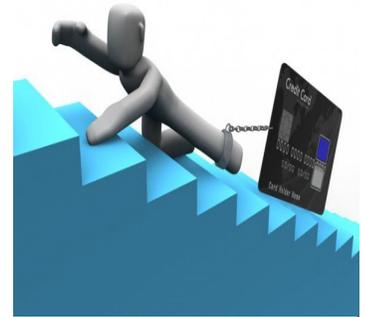


Repair Credit & Save Money With SCRA

The Air Force can be a demanding way of life at times. It is always a challenge trying to balance our primary duties with personal life. Luckily, the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) is a federal law that provides benefits and protections for armed forces members who are on active duty status.

Some of the benefits include: excusal from jury duty; lease termination in the event of a deployment or PCS; 6% interest cap on preservice loans and credit cards; and stay of court action with proper notice. **The 6% interest cap on credit cards can be especially beneficial** for high interest credit cards incurred before

service. You can lower your debt to income ratio and repair your credit because more money will go towards the principal balance on your monthly payments with a lower interest rate. For more information on SCRA, contact legal assistance, or go to: <https://scra.dmdc.osd.mil/>.



McChord Field Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

100 Col Joe Jackson Blvd, Suite 3031
JBLM, WA 98438
(253) 982-6305

The Office of the SJA *only* provides legal assistance (Wills & Powers of Attorney) for personnel departing on contingency operations on short notice who cannot be seen by the satellite or the Fort Lewis Legal Assistance Office.

Mon/Wed: 0730-1630
Tu/Thurs/Fri: 0730-1500.

McChord Field Satellite Legal Assistance Office

100 Col Joe Jackson Blvd, Suite 1082
JBLM, WA 98438
(253) 982-5513

Legal assistance is available to authorized military, retiree, and dependent ID cardholders, by appointment only, to discuss personal civil legal matters, such as wills and estate planning, domestic relations, landlord/tenant issues, & consumer affairs. Attorneys *cannot* discuss criminal law issues, nor provide advice over the telephone.

Walk-in notary services & Powers of Attorney are available M-F, 0800-1600. Call to schedule an appointment for other matters.

Online Legal Assistance

<https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil/lass/lass.html>