



Deployment Preparations Checklist

Every deployment is different. Sometimes you barely have time to pack and say your goodbyes. Other times you have weeks to get your affairs in order. You may be on standby alert, never knowing when you will be expected to report – the next day, or the next week.

The following deployment checklists can help you in either situation. Print and carry them with you as you work through your deployment preparations:

- Rapid Deployment Checklist**
- Deployment Preparations Checklist**
- Deployment Documents and Records Checklist**

Rapid Deployment Checklist

When the nation calls, our service men and women are the first to respond. Because we understand the circumstances you experience during this difficult time, we have identified four immediate steps you should address prior to departure:

- Prepare a will.
- Complete a power of attorney so that someone you trust can conduct business on your behalf while you are away and designate someone to make health care decisions on your behalf.
- Register for online access to your accounts. Obtain PIN numbers and passwords as needed.
- Establish automatic payment plans to have your bills paid.



Deployment Preparations Checklist

Based on many years of serving the military community and their families, we have identified some areas you may want to focus on before you leave. We have also included tips and suggestions that may help family members while you are away.

Financial Checklist

- Seek reputable financial advice to discuss your situation prior to departure.
- Review life insurance coverage for you and your family.
- Set up a folder to hold receipts, financial and legal documents in your absence.
- Review your financial arrangements. Make sure all financial accounts are shared with your spouse.
- Record financial account numbers and take a copy of that record with you when you deploy.
- Review your financial needs. Ensure that any loans that may be needed are prearranged.
- Review investment options.
- Set up automatic deposit, investment and payment services.
- Discuss budgets for home and deployment expenses.
- Plan for the unexpected expense like car and home repairs.
- Consider keeping additional funds in your checking account at all times.

Legal Considerations

- Prepare a will.
- Consider a living will for you and your spouse. Make sure your spouse, relative or friend is aware of its contents.
- Consider giving your spouse, relative or trusted friend a power of attorney or limited power of attorney to handle affairs in your absence or designate someone to make health care decisions on your behalf. (Consult a legal advisor.)
- Place important documents in a secure location, such as a safe or a safe deposit box.



Deployment Preparations Checklist

Personal Property

- Review your property insurance coverage.
- Replace filters on heating and air-conditioning systems.
- If there are any repair needs for electrical, climate-control and water systems, have them done now.
- Make sure your spouse knows how to turn off the hot water heater, water or well pump, gas mains and any other major systems.
- Check your smoke detectors.
- Label fuses and circuit breakers and show your family members how to use them.
- Arrange for a home security system.
- If you have a home security system, make sure it works. Leave instructions with a neighbor or trusted friend should the alarm activate.
- Photograph or videotape the condition of your property.
- Update your property inventory with serial numbers.

Prepare a household emergency kit:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight | <input type="checkbox"/> First-aid kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Extra batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical tape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Candles | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Extinguisher | <input type="checkbox"/> Matches | <input type="checkbox"/> Bottled water |

If you are leaving your home or apartment unattended

- Complete a temporary change-of-address form.
- If you are renting a home or apartment, notify your landlord that you will be gone.
- Cancel your newspaper delivery.
- Secure any weapons you may have in your home.
- Make arrangements with a family member or someone you trust to secure and protect your personal property. Consider a commercial storage facility as an alternative.
- Arrange for high-value items (\$2,500 or more) to be stored in a secure location like a safety deposit box.



Deployment Preparations Checklist

Auto

- Review your auto insurance coverage.
- Notify your insurance company if your car will be idle or placed in storage. Adjust coverage as necessary. Ensure your license plates and inspections are current.
- Make sure your registration, insurance and inspection stickers are up-to-date.
- Sign-up for roadside emergency service.
- A way to seek help (cell phone, calling card or change).
- Ensure vehicle has been serviced.
- Make a list of repair facilities (including tire and body shops).
- Make a maintenance schedule (for oil changes and tire realignments, etc.).

Prepare a roadside emergency kit:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flares | <input type="checkbox"/> First-aid kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Spare tire | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice scraper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jack | <input type="checkbox"/> Blanket | <input type="checkbox"/> Maps | <input type="checkbox"/> Tool kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spare batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight/lantern | <input type="checkbox"/> Jumper cables | <input type="checkbox"/> Bottled water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A way to reach help (cell phone or calling card) | | | |

Medical

- Make sure DEERS (Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System) is current.
- Make sure your spouse understands the military's Family Member Dental Plan.
- Verify TRICARE status for your family.
- Review family TRICARE procedures with your spouse.
- Check your prescriptions for status of refills and expiration dates.
- Ensure you have a spare set of eyeglasses and/or contact lenses.
- Consider signing a medical power of attorney for health care decisions in the event of injury.



Deployment Preparations Checklist

Deploying Overseas

- If your deployment is international, research cost effective international calling plans with either your phone provider or international calling card.
- Notify your credit card company if you are taking your card overseas.

Miscellaneous

- Make sure your spouse is aware of financial and computer passwords.
 - Notify creditors who may offer deployment discounts.
 - Consider an active duty freeze on your credit to help protect against identify theft while deployed.
 - Set-up an emergency communication plan.
 - Make sure your family's military I.D. cards are current and will not expire while you are gone.
 - Notify your children's school of your deployment.
 - Arrange care for your pets. Make sure all shots are up-to-date. Notify your veterinarian if someone will be taking care of your pet.
 - Make a list of important e-mail addresses to take with you.
-

Deployment Documents & Records

It's important to keep certain paperwork readily available for emergencies. Keep these documents in a secure place such as a safe deposit box or a fire resistant location. These documents should be updated prior to each deployment.

Legal Documents & Records

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wills | <input type="checkbox"/> Court orders of documents (Divorce, Child Custody/support) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Powers of attorney | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security Cards for family members |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birth certificate(s)/adoption records | <input type="checkbox"/> Tax records |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burial and funeral instructions | <input type="checkbox"/> Passports/citizenship papers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Emergency Data Card (DD Form 93) | |

Deployment Preparations Checklist



Financial Documents & Records

Life Insurance company (name, address and website)

Bank accounts (checking and savings) numbers, addresses, & phone numbers

Safe Deposit Box _____ Key location _____

Credit card accounts

Savings bonds, mutual funds, certificates of deposit, stocks IRA documents

Other

Deployment Preparations Checklist



Automobile Documents & Records

Auto #1(Year/Make/Model)

State registered

License #

Auto #2(Year/Make/Model) State registered

License #

Insurance Company (name & address)

Phone #

Website

Keep a list of any online passwords in a secure location



Deployment Preparations Checklist

Miscellaneous

- Copies of any contracts (i.e. installment contract, apartment lease)
 - Copies of TDY/PCS orders
 - Copy of SGLI election form
 - Current vaccination records
 - Drivers license
 - Marriage certificate
 - Warranties on car and appliances
 - Vehicle titles, registration
-

NOTES:

Copyright © 2020 USAA.

This material is for informational purposes, and is not tax, legal or estate planning advice. Consider your own financial circumstances carefully before making a decision and consult with your tax, legal or estate planning professional.

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its insurance, banking and other companies. Banks Member FDIC.

No Department of Defense or government agency endorsement.