1. GO figure it out yourself
   1. No one will go out of their way to help you out with everything
   2. Go ask Travel, Transportation, Finance, and Housing about what you need to do in order to PCS/TDY/TDY en route
   3. Talk to people who graduated last year and did similar things
2. Moving you/your stuff
   1. Apply for a DPS account, fill in everything you can (you will need your actual orders to start each “move application,” and keep the password handy: https://eta.sddc.army.mil/ETASSOPortal/SSO/PortalLogin.aspx
   2. PPM (formerly called a DITY)
      1. Figure out if you want a Full PPM vs. Partial PPM
         1. File paperwork before you travel!
      2. ALWAYS at least partial PPM
         1. Your shipment will not show up the day you get there so have enough uniforms, clothes, and other things to live for a few weeks
         2. At a minimum throw OCPs, some field gear, PTs, ASUs, computer, printer, and all paperwork in the car with you.
      3. Save all your receipts (gas, tolls, oil changes, and lodging)
   3. Shipment
      1. Get Transportation to authorize you to move things and then contact your “local” moving office ASAP and coordinate a P/U date
      2. Contact Transportation of where you are going to coordinate a drop off date BEFORE you actually relocate, they might be able to send the tuck straight to your house your first day there instead of the storage facility and then later getting around to moving all your boxes again (this would’ve saved me 2 weeks without my stuff).
      3. You can also find out the likely drop off date with your truck driver day of the loading, but his schedule isn’t up to you so whatever he says usually goes since he’s already been dispatched by the move coordinator.
      4. Photograph or record on your own everything that is getting shipped
      5. Watch the packers pack and ensure everything gets recorded/packed
      6. Ensure they don’t pack your cat/paperwork/uniforms etc… (it has happened)
   4. Travel voucher
      1. Claim the laundry/daily incidentals amount anytime you are on TDY
      2. Make sure to have receipts for lodging
      3. If it’s not on your orders you will not be paid for it
3. Pay Advances/operating expenses
   1. Take it! Money now is better than the same amount of money later
   2. You will be spending a lot out of pocket/paying off your government travel card until your BAH, PPM paperwork, etc… kicks in
      1. Some say to have as much as 3 paychecks saved up in order to PCS
      2. Take advantage of PPM operating expenses advance or a TDY advance
   3. It’s your fault if you go into actual debt because of all this
4. Permissive TDY (PTDY)
   1. Take it if you can get it, it is never guaranteed
   2. Standard is 10 days to get yourself situated at a new post (the regulation says house hunting but everyone knows what that truly entails)
   3. Must sign into the housing office (and nowhere else) at the new post and then go on Permissive TDY. The Post Housing Office will stamp your DA-31 with a housing stamp or make a record, do not worry about your unit signing anything until you actually sign in off your PTDY.
   4. Talk to your BOLC about this, BEFORE you go to your first actual duty assignment
5. Records
   1. Always have 15+ copies of your orders when showing up to anything
   2. Get an accordion folder and keep tabs for PPM, personal property shipments, orders, leave forms, housing, medical, dental etc…..
      1. USAA has a cool deployment packet in an accordion folder which helps holds records and already has the labels you need. The paperwork they send will remind you of a lot of things which need to get taken care of as well
   3. Make copies of ANY paperwork you turn in: travel vouchers, TDY settlements, receipts
   4. Copy your entire 201 and medical files, keep the copies in a safe place
   5. Whenever you finish a course make sure to get proof/orders
6. Housing
   1. Contact the installation housing office and ask about housing/availability on post etc… as soon as you know you are going.
   2. BAH
      1. Get you BAH figured out as soon as possible, this is hundreds if not thousands of dollars that you probably can’t afford to get in back-pay next month
7. Uniforms
   1. ~~Reclamation sale~~ Unfortunately, most installations no longer do these
      1. ~~These exist at all posts with Basic Training~~ 
         1. ~~Ft. Sill (first Saturday of the month)~~
         2. ~~Ft. Benning (first Friday of the month) on the corner of 10~~~~th~~ ~~Div Rd. and Anderson St.~~
      2. They sell all issue items which are cast offs of basic trainees
         1. OCPs, boots, Class As, berets, duffel bags, etc…(clothing sales type items)
         2. They are usually slightly used
         3. Cost for a full set of ACUs was less than $25 in 2013
         4. There are similar sales held less often for used weapons and used vehicles as well
   2. What you need vs. what is nice to have
      1. Some say to always buy the cheap uniforms until you know you are staying in the Army then you can buy a nice pair of ASU etc…
      2. Realize your body will change a lot once you leave school and start working out with a unit/going to hooah schools etc...
   3. Save up/buy over time because there a lot of different things you need to buy but you won’t need them all right away (winter doesn’t start in May)
      1. Start thinking about what you will need for Ranger/Sapper/your first post
8. First assignment after graduation leave (BOLC III etc…)
   1. Show up a day early to get your bearings and figure out what building you have to report to
   2. Make sure your DA 31 gets signed as soon as you report
      1. This will make sure that you don’t get charged leave days
   3. Have some money to spend for necessities (laundry detergent, a different running belt/vest, field gear the school/post requires, and dues for things like the National Infantry Association, cup and flower fund etc…)
9. Learn from everyone else
   1. Not everyone learned the same stuff you did at your commissioning source
   2. Learn from the prior service and other commissioning sources
      1. Understand at a minimum how their career paths have gone up to this point
      2. They are experts in things you have never even heard of, ask!
   3. Your cadre may not be the best at everything, talk to your peers
   4. These might be the only people you ever meet in certain branches/posts, know what they do, keep in touch
10. Leave/Pass
    1. Both are counted by “workdays” so when taking a 4 day pass you can leave Thursday after work and not return until Monday night
    2. Leave
       1. Chargeable (you earn 2.5 days/month)
          1. If you sign out after noon that day does not count as charged
       2. Can be taken in conjunction with pass in certain circumstances. This is a very new policy and you will likely have to quote the regulation to your boss, but it’s in the leave and pass regulation now.
       3. You can go in the hole on leave days, depending on the approving authority.
    3. Pass
       1. Not chargeable leave
       2. Cannot be longer than 4 days
       3. Probably used for Thanksgiving and long weekends
11. Day 1
    1. Show up in shape
       1. EVERYONE remembers who falls out of runs
       2. It is really the only difference between you and the rest of the LTs
       3. First impressions last
       4. Start off on the right foot and get in great shape before showing up
    2. Wear the right uniform
       1. Don’t shape your beret the wrong direction/wear the wrong unit patch/your school patch on your right shoulder etc…(it happens)
       2. Haircut/shave/best uniform obviously
    3. Paperwork (see above) but bring copies of everything you can think of