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Deployment packing list

Moving from the family home to student housing, whether it's a college dormitory, an apartment, or a rented house, is part of the learning experience of higher education. It's a lesson in decision making, resourcefulness and creativity. And if you're trying to pack 18-plus years of life into a twelve-foot-square dorm room, it can be a big headache.What should you take? What stays home? What do you need to buy? To answer those questions, answer these questions first:What's provided? Even the tiniest dorm room includes basic furnishings, usually a bed, desk and chair, and dresser. Other items, like a microfridge (a combination microwave oven/refrigerator-freezer), might be available for a fee. You can sometimes check out cooking equipment from the residence hall front desk. The school's office of student housing can tell you.If you'll be sharing off-campus housing, agree on what "community property," such as kitchen appliances, each housemate can bring. Also consider a swap-and-share arrangement: For example, your roommate can use your computer if you can ride his bike to morning classes.How much space is available? You may have seen a dorm room during a campus visit. However, don't rely on memory alone to decide whether your bookcase fits in the corner near the window. Instead, get a floor plan from the student housing office. If it doesn't include the dimensions of the room and the standard furnishings, ask and write them down. The information may also be available on the school's Web site. If you're living off campus, measure rooms when looking at rental property. Having space for the things you really want may be worth paying a higher rent for a bigger place.How will you transport your stuff? The simplest and cheapest transportation is Mom or Dad's car and the ever-popular friend with a pick-up truck. If this isn't practical, you might rent a small van or trailer. Make sure you understand all of the terms of the agreement. For example, what charges apply for going over the mileage limit? What kind of insurance is provided?How far is school from your home? If it's just across town, you can leave less-used things at home and retrieve them as needed. Moving cross-country, on the other hand, might mean a take-with-or-do-without decision.With those guidelines in mind, take a look at some useful, if not essential, items for your list on the next page. Here it is, time to go on deployment. This may be your first or one out of many, but it always helps to have a deployment packing list with necessities. I mean... you can't just turn around and pick up what you need easily if you forget something. You'll want to make sure you bring all the essentials, and also what you need to be comfortable and entertained. But... they must also be practical and not waste the little space you have. This post is filled with great ideas that you'll want to consider taking with you; they also make great deployment gifts! Please note: This post may contain affiliate links, but at no additional cost to you. For my full disclosure policy, click here. Deployment Necessities Necessities vary based on if you're in the Navy, Army, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force, and also based on the location you're going. If you plan to buy any of these items for your service-member, it would be best to make sure they'll be practical for their situation. If you shop on Amazon, some of these items can also be shipped to APO/FPO addresses. In my experience, they've usually taken about a month or less to reach. 1. Mattress topper The beds given are rarely comfortable. Using a mattress topper will allow for a good night's sleep. My service-member can sleep anywhere, so this wasn't necessary to buy. However, this is a must-have for some others, especially if they have back problems. 2. Hard drive Hard drives are great to fill up with movies, shows, music, and pictures. Service-members also frequently share what they have. I recommend at least a 2TB portable hard drive. 3. Sleeping bag A warm weighted blanket or sleeping bag is great for keeping the night chills away. It can get really cold in some areas and on ships at night! On the other hand, a nice portable fan is great to have when it gets too hot. 4. Noise-canceling headphones With so many people occupying the same area, noise-canceling headphones are great for drowning them out! You can also find them for around \$5 at discount stores like ROSS. If you'll be able to keep them charged, wireless headphones are better. 5. Tap lights These tap lights are a necessity to do anything at night when taps is called. Another option is a strong flashlight. 6. Velcro My service-member likes to use velcro to hold up his phone/tablet and watch movies hands-free. If you can find them at a nearby dollar store, they're much cheaper. Command hooks are also great to hang things up and make good use of the little space. 7. Melatonin Do you know what's horrible? When you finally have a day to sleep in and can't. That's why melatonin is useful for helping you get to sleep and stay asleep. It's also great for those who have to work overnight and sleep during the day. Oh, and don't forget to grab a sleeping mask! 8. Shower slippers I won't even mention the stories that I've heard about the shared showers. They are gross! Just be sure to have shower slippers if you'd like to avoid a foot fungus or infection. Some sturdy crocs are a much better option compared to flimsy flip flops. 9. Watch I purchased this solar-powered and water-resistant, atomic G-Shock watch as a boot camp graduation gift for my husband. He's had it for over 6 years now and it still works great though we did have to buy replacement bands. For a more budget-friendly option, this Casio watch is also a great option. 10. Hydro flask Hydro flasks are popular for keeping hydrated. They can keep water really cold for hours! I also really like the gradient colors of the Iron Flask brand; just look how cute it is! 11. Coffee mug I always recommend this Contigo coffee mug, it keeps your tea or coffee warm for hours! However, these insulated mugs can build up mold and you should remove the gasket to clean every nook and cranny; but it's kind of hard to replace the gasket after cleaning. That's why I recently bought a Zojirushi insulated mug after reading through the reviews. It has a big gasket that should be much easier to keep clean. Other Useful Gifts for Deployment Care packages are one of the ways we can brighten the spirits of our service members when they are deployed. I like to send one every month and decorate them for holidays. They do not have to cost a lot of money to send, though I've heard of spouses paying \$100 at UPS and FedEx. My cost has always been under \$20 at USPS and I buy my decorating supplies at the Dollar Tree. But what to fill it with? Here are some ideas: Granola barsTuna packetsMicrowave riceRamen noodlesGumBeef jerkyMixed nutsDrink mixesSeasoningsPlaying cardsFoot powderCrossword puzzlesSocksUnderwearHoliday themed gifts: Just remember to send a month in advanceToiletries: Ask what they'll need soonTobacco products (Cigarette, dip, etc.): Always runs out in the ship store I also send little gifts that I know my husband will like. One of his favorites was receiving all seasons of an old sitcom on DVD and character t-shirts. Packing Tips: Pick up the Large Flat Rate boxes at the Post Office for a cheap way to ship items. You can also order a free Military Kit, but it comes with various size boxes.Buy saran wrap at the dollar store and thoroughly wrap anything that may leak. Then place it in a grocery or zip-lock bag.Completely wrap every square inch of your package in tape to prevent damage. You can buy the tape cheaply at the dollar store as well.Buy your decorating supplies for \$1 at the dollar store. Why spend extra at Michaels or Hobby Lobby when they'll throw it away?. Deployment Packing List Before you leave, don't forget the essentials! Here's a list of some things to bring on deployment: Civilian clothes: Not allowed for all deployments. Bring clothes appropriate for the culture and weather of the area you're going to.PT gear or workout clothesMesh laundry bagSewing kitLaundry detergentUnderwear and Socks: A good amount in case you can't do laundry for a while.ToiletriesToothpasteToothbrushFlossSoapDeodorantFeminine hygiene productsChapstickShampoo and conditionerRazor and shaving creamToilet paper: Just in case!LotionExtra pair of glasses: If you're blind like me, these are important!Medication: The amount needed for your deployment period, plus extra in case of an extension.Condiments and seasonings: To give the food more flavor.Food and snacks: Things that are easy to store and will last like granola bars. Related Posts: 10 Strategies For Saving Money On Deployment Best Side Hustles For Active Duty Military Members: Includes ways to make extra money while on deployment! Have you ever seen how much space there is to live in on a submarine? It is not much. Most of the junior officers will live in "nine-man" which is exactly what it sounds like. Imagine the smallest bedroom you can think of and put nine beds inside it. That's right, three sets of triple bunk beds. And that is the good life for officers! Department heads will share a room with only one of the triple bunk beds, and only the Commanding Officer (CO) and Executive Officer (XO) have their own staterooms. The XO occasionally has to share with riders! The enlisted sailors sometimes sleep above torpedoes or may even have to 'hot rack' rotating beds with duty sections. Long story short, space is at a premium. You might expect to have personal space about the size of a coffin. So how on earth do you pack for several months in that space? A funny suggestion we got early on, before my husband's first deployment was that 1/3 of his seabag should be clothes, and the other 2/3 should be snacks. There is no going to the store to get your favorite munchies or bubbly drinks on a sub, so if you want it, you must bring it! Here is a good list to get started packing for deployment: Clothing/Toiletries Sneakers (2) - the guys like to wear 'quiet' shoes with their poopy suits. I have seen anything from loafers to running shoes, to vans or slippers!Shower shoesDryer sheetsSpace bagsSweats/work-out clothes (2)Socks/underwear (10-14)Poopy suits (3-4)Other uniforms (The command will say what uniforms are needed. On my husband's first deployment the boat asked him to bring khakis, whites, SDB's and NWU's - dang that's a lot of clothes!)Promotion Insignia (if expecting to be promoted or pinned underway)Civvies (2) - when the boat finally pulls into port the last thing they want to be wearing is their uniform! I suggest packing at least two sets of civilian clothes, in a space bag with a dryer sheet if they don't want to smell like the boat!Pillow/pillowcase (check out these fleet sheets)Blanket - it can get cold on the sub, especially the deeper they go!Rack curtain - the rack comes with a curtain, which may or may not be a good one. You can get a fancy one here. TowelToiletriesBackpackLaundry bag Snacks/Misc. Drink mixes- we usually go with Gatorade, Mio and Starbucks Via (only drinks on a sub are coffee, water and 'bug juice')Snacks/candy/gum- also helps make friends ☺Thermos/water bottleFlashlight (look for one with a red-light option)MultitoolCash Electronics/Entertainment Tablet or laptop + chargerHeadphonesCamera + batteries, charger (different subs will have rules about cell phones, so having a standalone camera can be a good idea)SD card/hard drive - no internet means no access to new shows, music, or family pictures - load it up!!Cards! - write out lots of cards ahead of time with dates to open them. Stuff with notes, memories, pictures, comics... Even my husband who is totally not a card person appreciates these little connections when they are out of communication. OK - that should cover it! Did I miss anything? What essentials does your significant other like? 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