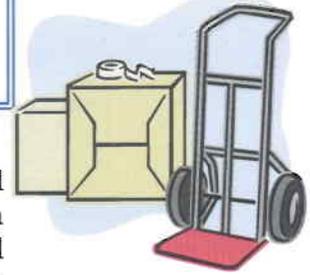


## ***Getting Ready for Your Next PCS...***

by Mark Christensen

As the summer PCS season approaches, many in our community will make another move. Most folks think in terms of pre-move events, such as making transportation appointments and clearing, collecting school and medical records for family members and pets, and the actual logistics of making the move. This article provides some information that may help you not just plan for your move, but help you in the event you have to file a claim for lost or damaged personal property after you receive your household goods and vehicle at your new duty station.



“Pre-Existing Damage,” or “PED,” for short, is the name we use to refer to the condition of an item prior to its shipment or pack-out by a carrier. When you deliver your vehicle to the vehicle shipment location, or the movers come to your house to pack out your household goods, they will indicate any PED on your property. At delivery if your property is lost or damaged you may want to file a claim. If there was documented PED you will only be paid for new damage. Also, PED can be used to value an item for replacement purposes.

### **Let's talk about the POV shipment first.**

When you bring your POV to the vehicle shipment point, you will have been directed to bring the vehicle clean, with less than a quarter tank of fuel. You will be given the opportunity to inspect the vehicle with the carrier representative. The representative will have a schematic of your vehicle and will make notes concerning mileage and PED. If there are dents, rubs, scratches or breaks on your vehicle, they will annotate the schematic. When you pick up your POV at the shipment destination, you will again have the chance to inspect the vehicle with a carrier representative. They will use the same schematic prepared at drop-off to note mileage and document new damage. If there is new damage you will have the opportunity to claim reimbursement from the carrier or your servicing claims office.

An important goal for you is to insure that the PED noted at drop-off is accurate. You will be held to what you sign for, so you should insure that the drop-off inventory of PED is complete and accurate. The carrier should be specific about any PED and its location.

### **The same rules apply to your household good shipments.**

On the household goods inventory prepared by the carrier and signed by you there is a column for PED. When the carrier notes dented or scratched furniture at pick-up, you will have to prove there is new damage in order to be paid for a claim after delivery. If an item has substantial PED, and the item is severely damaged, destroyed, or lost, the carrier will use that information to reduce the item's value when compensating you. You should insure that any noted PED is accurate, and that your inventory sufficiently describes your property. If you have high-value furniture, electronics, or antiques, your inventory should reflect the condition and status of those items so PED notations do not limit your ability to claim the true value of the item.

Good luck on your move! We hope your move is successful and smooth, and that you will be able to spend some time taking the steps discussed above that will help you make sure your claims rights are protected.

***If you have claims questions or need help filing your claim, contact the Kaiserslautern Legal Services Center Claims Office at DSN 483-8414 or Civilian 0631-411-8414.***