

AMHS FAQ

All members transferring to Alaska are counseled on the authorization of shipment of vehicles (e.g. authorized one shipment of POV at government expense OCONUS, such as AK). Though the “preferred” method of travel to Alaska is “ship one vehicle and fly”, we understand that is not the reality for our members. Realistically, approximately 90% of CG members and families utilize the AMHS to, essentially, allow for an additional vehicle in these remote locations. We also recognize that you’re not moving to a location that is replete with car dealerships so options are limited.

The AMHS has logistical issues, including delays and cancellations which places our members into difficult situations. Before proceeding, it’s important to understand the facts (e.g. “the bad news”) when confronted with a delay or cancellation:

- Members who elect and are authorized travel via the AMHS are required to take leave for any additional days spent en route awaiting a scheduled or delayed ferry. The important take-away here is that additional travel days (e.g. entitlements) are not going to be authorized.
- Shipment of a second vehicle is not going to be authorized. Simply put, unfortunately, an additional vehicle is not supported by the JTR.

... So what can you do if confronted with a delayed or cancelled AMHS ferry? Some realistic options:

- Drive the Alcan Highway. Important note: as of April, 2022, passports are required for all dependents, including spouses, to transit Canada.
- Adjust unit departure/arrival dates. Though operationally dependent, depart/report dates are often negotiable. Coast Guard Commands are well-aware of challenges associated with PCS to and from Alaska, particularly if you know ahead of time that the AMHS is having scheduling difficulties.

We are aware of numerous challenges, both personal and operational, that make on-the-fly adjustments difficult. Based upon these frequently asked questions we’ve received about AMHS delays the past several years, we have the following advice:

- If you do not have school age-dependents, strongly consider a delay in departure to a later date outside of peak transfer season (contingent upon departing/receiving Command support).
- If confronted with a delay and you have an expiring lease (e.g. I need to move-out so I have no choice but to depart for my next unit), consider requesting the leasing agent/property owner extend your lease to allow for a later departure date.
- If you have a pending home sale and need to move out, consider a rent-back agreement to allow for a slightly later departure date.

All that said, if you need additional support and need someone to discuss options and troubleshoot, we are here for you! Please give the PCS Assist Team a call (844-727-2022) or email (PCSAssist@uscg.mil) and we can problem solve together.