

Quick Preservation Tips

for Military Families

Military personnel, their families, and their friends face specific challenges when trying to save, document, and record their family's military experience. Taking even one small step like moving boxes from an attic to a bedroom closet can have a significant impact.

Moving Tips

- Frequent moving increases risks to military family heirlooms
- Hand-carry valued items rather than sending them in a moving truck or container
- Leave highly valued items with family rather than taking them on a temporary move or putting in storage

Check Your Storage Space

- If you must put valued items in a storage unit:
 - select one that is climate controlled and keeps boxes 4 inches off the floor to lessen the risk of damage from water leaks
- Ask a friend or family member to occasionally check on your storage unit for:
 - evidence of current or past water leaks
 - boxes being crushed from heavy items stacked on top
 - physical distortion (especially in wood) from seasonal changes in temperature and humidity (if there is no climate control)
 - sight or smell of mold

Deployment Conditions

- Conditions under deployment can be difficult
- Storage space is often limited
- Communication is often difficult; email may be the primary means of correspondence, with social media discouraged for security reasons
- Download PDF files of emails you want to keep
- Make multiple copies, stored in separate geographic locations

Document Your Unique Story

- Recognize the value in your memorabilia and don't underestimate the importance of everyday memories
- Plan now for safe-keeping—risk of loss increases over time and with every change of job, residence, computer, and cellphone

If you're not sure... ask someone

- Library of Congress' Ask a Librarian: www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/
- Veterans History Project: www.loc.gov/vets/
- Regional Alliance for Preservation: www.rap-arcc.org
- Attend a preservation workshop at your local library or regional preservation center.
- Go to the Preservation @ your library website: www.atyourlibrary.org/passiton for more information on preserving all digital correspondence, including audio, video, Skype, texts, and social media

pass it on...

**Preservation
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