

## THE COMMUNICATOR

### Military's \$17.9 Billion Moving Contract Off to Slow Start

New Federal Requirements Confuse Some Large Movers

After being stymied by yearslong bid pro- the U.S. Transportation Command, or tests, technical system challenges, startup

delays and criticism from large moving companies, a \$17.9 billion contract to move military members and their families finally took effect this summer.

So far, however, just 100 or so local moves have been completed by local

moving companies, with plans underway for gradual expansion despite continued concern being voiced by the broader moving industry.

Plans are underway this month to continue local moves and initiate a limited number of interstate moves under what is known as the Global Household Goods Contract (GHC), according to a recent statement by

Transcom, which is coordinating the mas-

sive effort with a sole contractor, Houston-based HomeSafe Alliance.

The Department of Defense aims to achieve full GHC domestic implementation by springtime, with plans for monthly increases in shipment volume.

International shipments are not expected to begin before September 2025.

"HomeSafe's first 100 moves were local shipments, defined as being packed, picked up and delivered within the same general area," HomeSafe said in a Sept. 3 statement. All were performed in California, Florida, North Carolina, Virginia or Washington.

"The positive feedback received from (MILITARY CONTRACT continued on page 5)





## Mark Your Calendar!





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### CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

by Vince Cardinale

In speaking with many of you over the past few weeks, I noticed that our busy season was spotty for most members. It truly was not the typical busy summer moving season.

We repeatedly hear from our media and legislatures that our economy is heading for a "soft landing," but I believe we should focus on what we can do about it. I once read that the best way to predict the future is to create it.

On the bright side, many opportunities arise because of the challenges we face. It is through associations such as the CMSA that we can gather strength and unity, which will prepare us for future opportunities.

As business owners, and as we concentrate on our core business and look to diversify and find other business lines, you can be assured your CMSA Board of Directors and the CMSA staff continue to work hard

on the issues facing our businesses and the moving industry.

If you don't visit the CMSA website regularly, I suggest you do. The member area is filled with lots of helpful information and articles affecting our industry. These issues include the latest CARB information regarding diesel truck emissions, including emissions smoke testing two times per year beginning in 2024.

It seems that CARB is being much more aggressive in enforcing the Diesel Truck regulations. For example, it is auditing Companies using the low mileage vehicle reporting and doing spot checks to ensure that the vehicle smoke tests are current.

If you are unfamiliar with these current regulations, you can find the most current info on our CMSA website. The website also contains the most current chapter meetings, chapter events, and fundraising information.

Speaking of fundraising, our 21<sup>st</sup> annual Monterey Bay Golf & Bocce tournament is Friday, October 4. I would like to personally invite each of you to join us in Monterey for

(CHAIRMAN'S CORNER continued on page 4)





PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS
By Steve Weitekamp

We value continuity at CMSA in what can often feel like a chaotic and otherwise uncertain world. August included our annual chapter leadership training in preparation for another season

of CMSA Chapter meetings and fundraisers. Events that support our annual scholarship and charity programs have long been a source of pride. The willingness of members to step up and volunteer their efforts for the betterment of the association and the industry speaks to qualities that are not celebrated as they should be but are not uncommon in the moving community. Most movers want to help others, willing to step into difficult situations and say don't worry, I've got this. We take pride in performing challenging tasks and providing customer satisfaction, frequently with long hours away from home and family; for that, we deserve to be

fairly compensated!

At the end of August, I was in Spreckels, California, to celebrate the life of the first woman CMSA Chair, Barbara Marcantonio. Barbara was CMSA chair from 1990-91, and her family was rightfully proud of her accomplishments. CMSA Chairman Vince Cardinale and member Gary Plummer joined me in attending the memorial mass for Barbara. Spreckels is a charming little town where time appears to have stopped, and it is worth a quick stop if you are on the 101, passing through Salinas.

While in the area, I talked with several movers in the Monterey Peninsula and Salinas area, which has a long history of serving the US Military, from the days of the vast Army installation at Fort Ord to the significantly smaller yet still important traffic that exists today.

There were questions about an email from US TransCom dated 8/27/24 (see below for partial content related to California movers).

Beginning in September, transportation offices servicing the following installations



3

(CHAIRMAN'S CORNER continued from page 2)

a great event and to raise money for the CMSA.

President Steve Weitekamp and I will soon begin our Chapter visits in mid-

October. I look forward to seeing my many CMSA member friends and looking forward to meeting those I have not met. Caio for now and I hope you all have an awesome September.

(PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS continued from page 3)

can issue task orders for local governmentarranged household goods shipments under GHC:

- Presidio of Monterey
- Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach
- Naval Postgraduate School Monterey
- Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

Besides adding locations, GHC will also expand beyond local government-arranged household goods shipments and begin conducting a limited number of interstate moves between select GHC-live locations. In September, transportation offices will have the ability to submit task orders for a limited number of shipments moving between the following locations:

- Norfolk, Va. to/from Seattle, Wash. area
- Norfolk, Va. to/from Jacksonville, Fla. area

- Norfolk, Va. to/from San Diego, Calif. area
  San Diego, Calif. to/from Seattle, Wash.
- San Diego, Calif. to/from Seattle, Wash. area

These additions will allow the DOD to ramp up shipment numbers with projected volume under GHC for the month of September to be approximately 4% of the total monthly average of domestic DOD shipments (based on three years of historic domestic data). The DOD is aiming to achieve full GHC domestic implementation by spring 2025 with current plans to add more installations and increase shipment volume totals monthly. International shipments under GHC are expected to begin no earlier than September 2025. All plans for the GHC phase-in are subject to change, and US-TRANSCOM will share updates as they be-

(PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS continued on page 5)



(PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS continued from page 4)

come available.

As of Aug. 20, the DOD had sent 116 task orders to HomeSafe Alliance, the primary GHC contractor, for shipment requests submitted across the initial sites, with a total of 94 shipments completed under GHC. Although current sample size is too small to be considered statistically significant, the DPMO can report that 96% of GHC customers who submitted survey responses rated their overall move experience as satisfied or better.

The common theme among movers who have long supported the military and adapted to the ever-changing rules and regulations established by the SDDC and then US TransCom was concern and lack of clarity. I think this lack of clarity among movers who have dedicated their careers and significant assets to supporting the movement of military members and their families speaks poorly of the process and implementation of the Global Household Goods (GHC) program.

(MILITARY CONTRACT continued from page 1)

both customers and our transportation offices shows that we are headed in the right direction," Andy Dawson, Defense Personal

Property ment Ofsaid in a "This sum-



Managefice director, statement. mer provid-

ed us the opportunity to validate new business processes and IT systems for GHC on a smaller scale while customers experience the new program. Overall, we are satisfied with how things have gone so far and anticipate continued progress as GHC volume increases this fall."

Despite this early praise, several primarily large, longtime military movers are taking a wait-and-see posture before participating in the program. These companies for months have voiced concern primarily over a federal legal requirement attached to the contract that they say is difficult to understand and which presents compliance challenges. So far, neither Transcom, the con-

(MILITARY CONTRACT continued on page 6)

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(MILITARY CONTRACT continued from page 5)

tractor nor the Department of Labor have explained how the federal requirements of the contract will specifically work, some movers say.

"From my perspective, the concept was never properly vetted by Transcom to begin with," said Scott Kelly, president of Suddath Cos. "We had a couple of industry meetings, talked through it, [but] I don't think the industry had a full understanding of all the requirements. That was back in the fall of 2018."

The Moving & Storage Conference of American Trucking Associations — which counts companies that handle military moves in its membership — likewise has concerns.

"The focus of our efforts is on providing the best service to our military families," said Executive Director Dan Hilton. "We are

> working on behalf of our members to ensure that goal is attained."

The group credited lawmakers with including in the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act language that would direct the Government Accountability Office to look into the GHC over the next several months.



**HILTON** 

Some movers have questions about the details of the GHC requirements. In general, the Federal Service Contract Act law applies to movers who use contractors and subcontractors performing services on prime contracts equal to or less than \$2,500 in value to pay the federal minimum wage as provided in the Fair Labor Standards Act. Contracts in excess of \$2,500 must pay service employees in various classes no less than the wage rates and fringe benefits found prevailing in the locality, or the rates contained in a predecessor contractor's collective bargaining agreement, according to the Department of Labor.

Kelly said his company uses independent contractors — some local and some long-distance — who get a percentage of the revenue. But he said the contract law presents a problem for most parties involved, including agents, service providers and independent contractors themselves.

"Yes, the Federal Service Contractor Act is a problem," Kelly said. "Independent contractors do not want to be employees. Fiscally, it would be virtually impossible for the moving industry to make all these thousands of independent contractors employees. We would have to buy their equipment, pay for the materials at every shipment, fuel and repairs, all the costs associated with being an independent contractor."

(MILITARY CONTRACT continued on page 7)

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(MILITARY CONTRACT continued from page 6)



HELENTHAL

As primarily longhaul movers, this is the first time this law has been applied to us," added Tim Helenthal, CEO of National Van Lines. "We've been asking, 'Department of Labor, how do we do this?' No one has a real answer for us. When we start digging into this, we ask a lot of questions.

Allied Van Lines vice president Steven McKenna added, "We engaged legal support and guidance from folks that do [Service Contract Act] for a living, and they just can't get their heads around the nature of our business. We cannot get good direction even from that group."

McKenna continued, "We're left to our own devices, and there's too much risk associated with that."

"The biggest issue right now is that Transcom is finally coming to the realization

that they need to work with the Department of Labor about how to comply with the SCA," said Oded Carmi, president of DN Van Lines. "The big question is right now how can these government agencies be OK with work proceeding on a contract that is required to be SCA compliant when they haven't given us the details of how to be compliant."

Bill Lovejoy, president of Republic Moving and Storage and ATA MSC chairman, said he won't opt into the program until his company can realize a profit.

"Speaking for my company, I can't do it at the rates that are being offered," Lovejoy said.



**LOVEJOY** 

In all, DOD oversees an estimated 325,000 annual moves of military families worldwide, with peak military moving season taking place May 15-Aug. 31.

Source: Transport Topics

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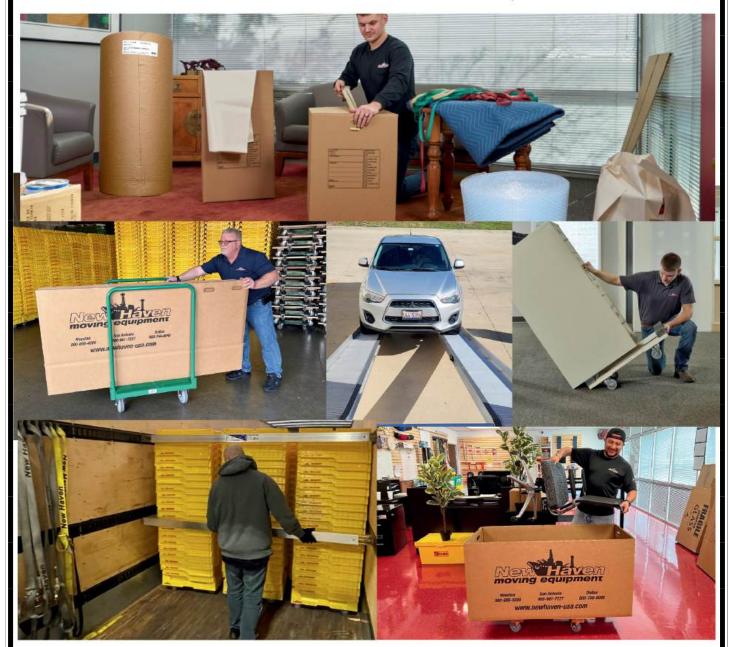
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# Salesman for Moving Company That Held Goods Hostage Gets 2-Year Sentence

Andre Prince, who was convicted of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, used a "stage name" as he worked for companies that also frequently swapped identities.

As anyone who has hired a moving company in New York City can attest, plenty can go awry.

Jumbo trucks have to navigate narrow streets. Bringing bulky furniture into a small elevator requires the spatial perception of a Tetris master. And even the most carefully packed or heavily padded items might arrive in pieces after jouncing over potholes.

But between 2017 and 2020, customers of several affiliated companies with names like First Class Moving and Storage, Green Movers of America Inc. and Simply Great Movers Inc., had a more serious concern: Would the movers trying to extort money ever return their possessions?

Two people accused of involvement in a scheme to hold cargo hostage were convicted in Federal District Court in Brooklyn last year of conspiracy to commit wire fraud. A judge determined that the scam had cheated some 800 customers out of \$800,000.

On Wednesday, one defendant, Andre Prince, who had been accused of using fake names and misleading potential customers while working as a sales representative for some of the fraudulent companies, was sentenced to two years in prison.

Facing Judge Denny Chin, Mr. Prince said, "I would just like first and foremost to apologize for everything that transpired."

While issuing his sentence a few minutes later, Judge Chin said Mr. Prince had "lied to his customers repeatedly."

At least eight fraudulent moving companies controlled by a Brooklyn man named Yakov Moroz created the impression that they were trustworthy long-running businesses by misrepresenting their histories, customer reviews and ratings by entities like the Better Business Bureau.

Sales representatives misrepresented prices, prosecutors said, quoting low estimates that they never meant to honor, then cutting off contact with victims once contracts were signed.

On moving day, prosecutors said, they increased prices without warning, sometimes after household possessions had been loaded onto trucks. Those who objected were directed to representatives who replied with "scripted answers."

"Sometimes," prosecutors wrote, "Coconspirators would charge the victims additional fees even after their goods were in transit, threatening to withhold delivery or even auction off the victims' personal belongings if they did not pay the additional money demanded."

That form of shakedown appears surprisingly common. The U.S. Department of Transportation maintains a web page titled "Wanted Fugitives" that includes more than 30 men and women, some labeled "armed and dangerous," who have been accused of carrying out scams like the one Mr. Prince was convicted of taking part in.

Among them are five people at a constellation of Northern California companies who were accused of using phony fees to triple moving bills and then threatening to put customers' items into storage if they did not pay up. Workers with a different California company were said to have rushed customers through paperwork, hiked prices and hidden goods. One member of that group was taken into custody in 2018 at San Francisco International Airport while on his way to Mexico.

Mr. Moroz, the main architect of the Brooklyn-based scam, managed to make good his own escape, according to The Daily News, which <u>reported last year</u> that he was believed to be hiding in Israel.

Kristy Mak, who was convicted alongside

(2-YEAR SENTENCE continued on page 12)





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(2-YEAR SENTENCE continued from page 10)

Mr. Prince of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, is awaiting sentencing. A fourth defendant, Kristen Smith, who pleaded guilty last year to the same conspiracy charge, was sentenced to time served.

In a memorandum to Judge Chin submitted before Wednesday's sentencing, defense lawyers noted Mr. Prince's "embarrassment and dismay," but asked for a sentence without prison time, saying that their client had not known the full scope of the criminal operation.

Mr. Prince's lawyers added that he had been directed by his employer to use a "stage name," something he had accepted as a common business practice, but did not profit from the swindling of customers. They also said that he had been distanced from customers and not in a position to hear their complaints.

"This veil/wall of secrecy also clouded the sales representatives' understanding of their companies' inner workings," the defense lawyers wrote. "Even as the veil began to

slip away, and Mr. Prince began to suspect and learn about the reality of the business practices, he was already intertwined with the company."

Prosecutors countered that jurors had rejected similar arguments, adding that former customers had testified about Mr. Prince's part in persuading them to choose a moving company, and about their frustration at his unresponsiveness when they realized his promises were false.

The prosecutors added that Mr. Prince had used aliases including Allen Parks, Alex Parker and Aaron Pace — and had been well aware that Mr. Moroz's companies frequently changed their names.



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### **Exxon Sees 2050 Oil Use at Current Level**

### Forecast Puts Efforts to Reach Net-Zero Carbon Emissions by Midcentury Well Out of Reach

Exxon Mobil Corp. forecasts global oil demand in 2050 will be the same — or even slightly higher — than current levels, putting efforts to reach net-zero carbon emissions

by midcentury well out of reach.

Oil demand will remain above 100 million barrels a day through 2050, driven by growth in industrial uses like plastic production and heavy-duty transportation, Exxon said

Aug. 26 in its an-

nual Global Outlook. The International Energy Agency's Net Zero Emissions Scenario says demand must drop 75% to 24 million barrels a day by 2050 to limit warming to 1.5C (2.7F) above pre-industrial norms, as called for in the Paris climate agreement.

"The IEA says, as do we, that the world is not on that pathway," said Chris Birdsall, Exxon's director of economics and energy. "We have to be crystal clear on the path the world is on. Otherwise, we delude ourselves."

Exxon does predict that global greenhouse gas emissions will begin to drop by 2030, as renewable energy sources continue to grow, and will fall 25% by 2050. That's likely not enough to prevent significant climate change.

Many countries and corporations, including Exxon, have drawn up plans to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. But achieving

those goals is becoming harder every year, as demand for energy of all kinds continues to rise.

Exxon's forecasts are roughly in line with

other recent ticipants. OPEC sees 116 million barrels a day of consumption in 2045, while 110 million bar-

rels a day.

Demand will be high enough that

projections by oil industry parpipeline giant Enbridge Inc. predicts demand could top

failing to invest now in new fossil fuel projects would be "catastrophic," Birdsall said. Without new investment, Exxon sees oil supply falling 70% to 30 million barrels a day by 2030, sending crude prices soaring

and decimating the global economy.

Exxon's forecast is likely to anger environmentalists and politicians who accuse the oil industry of using pessimistic narratives to paralyze climate action and protect profits. But Birdsall said the Global Outlook is a "realistic" projection based on real-world data and forecasts.

"We feel like we have to come out strong with that message because there are activists that are pushing a keep-it-in-the-ground approach," he said. "We can point to places where that's starting to leak into policy. That's really dangerous."

Source: Transport Topics

Demand will be high enough that failing to invest now in new fossil fuel projects would be "catastrophic," said Chris Birdsall, Exxon's director of economics and energy.



September 3, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom Governor, State of California 1021 O Street, Suite 9000 Sacramento, CA 95814

### RE: SB 1451 (Ashby) Professions and Vocations – SIGNATURE REQUEST

Dear Governor Gavin Newsom:

On behalf of the 525 members of the California Moving and Storage Association (CMSA), the trade association representing the state's regulated and permitted moving and storage companies, I write to you today to respectfully request your **SIGNATURE** on **SB 1451 (Ashby)**, which makes amendments to the Household Movers Act related to out of state moving companies.

Specifically, SB 1451 (Ashby) amends Section 19237 of the Business & Professions Code to remove the requirement that an interstate moving company whose principal place of business is not in California meet the law's residency requirements. Additionally, the amendments remove the requirement for an applicant to take the licensing examination as they are not conducting intrastate moves and requires the Bureau of Household Goods and Services to list both authorized intrastate and interstate movers on its website.

For the above reasons, we respectfully request your **SIGNATURE** on **SB 1451 (Ashby)**. If you have any questions regarding our position, please contact Matt Robinson at matt@syaslpartners.com.

Sincerely,

Steve Weitekamp CMSA President

CC: The Honorable Senator Ashby, Author

stight Withough

### **MEMORIAL BULLETIN**

### Barbara E. Marcantonio November 13, 1947 - August 8, 2024

Barbara E. Marcantonio passed away at home on Thursday, August 8, 2024 at the age of 76. She was born in Pacific Grove,

CA on November 13, 1947 to Raymond and Nicoline Groth. She is preceded in death by her younger sister, Nicoline Hiserman, husband, Sam, and nephew, Joshua Forrest.

She was proud of her parochial school education and was the first graduating class at Notre Dame High School in 1965. While obtaining her AA at Hartnell College, she started a career in the banking business. Her first job was at Valley National Bank, where she made lifelong friends and met her beloved husband. Sam.

Barbara then took a break from banking to help run her parents' moving and storage business: Scott's Van and Storage. She was an active member of the California Moving and Storage Association as the first chairwoman to serve on the board. After the closing of the family business, she made her way back into the banking world where she was a loan officer at Coast-Tel FCU, later retiring from Pacific Valley Bank in 2009.

Throughout her life, Barbara was committed to serving her community and volunteering her time, talent and energy to many local organizations such as Madonna del Sasso parish and school, Italian Catholic Federation, Boy Scouts and Notre Dame High School to name a few. She was selfless of her time and would assist anyone who needed a helping hand.

After Sam passed away in 2018, Barbara enjoyed playing dominos and cards with her

Tuesday ladies. Her door was always open with plenty of treats to share over heartfelt conversation. She was famous for her personalized goody bags and could talk sports facts with anyone.

Lastly, Barbara loved her family. While she liked to save the bragging for Sam to do,

she was guilty of it as well.
She took such great pride in watching her nieces' and nephews' life accomplishments and was always clapping the loudest at her grand-daughters' recitals and sports games. She would offer up prayers for anyone in need and was quick with a hug.

Barbara is survived by her daughter, Nicoline (Cory) Yoder of Salinas, CA; her granddaughters Olivia and Katie; niece Renee Forrest (Michael Soto) of Salinas, CA; nephew Christopher (Sarah) Hiserman of Bel-

mont, MA; sister-in-law Margaret Mosher of San Jose, CA; niece K.C. Moore of Morgan Hill, CA; nephew David Mosher of San Jose, CA as well as several great nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Mass will be held on August 30th, 2024 at St. Joseph's Church at 11am with a reception immediately following in the hall~we would love to hear your favorite Barbara memories.

Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to Notre Dame High School or Madonna del Sasso School.



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September Meeting

Fri., Sept 6 San Diego/Imperial

Counties Chapter San Diego Padres Game

Tues., Sept 17 Mid Valley Chapter

September Meeting

Wed., Sept 18 Monterey Chapter

September Meeting

Fri., Oct 4 Monterey Chapter

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## MOVE

### **Association Hunger Leaderboard Report**

### **CA Leaders for the** month of August

**Total** 

1	Daly Movers	40,290 lbs
2	Ernie's Van & Storage	1,271 lbs.

Mother Lode Van & 3 Storage

369 lbs.

### **CMSA Report Food Collected and Delivered**

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