



OBJECTIVES

Relocate 800 associates, multiple data centers, and three Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities (SCIFs) within two weeks, while maintaining strict security protocols and full operational continuity. The move also required full decommissioning of the former headquarters within six weeks.

SECURING THE MISSION

How Interstate Relocated One of the Nation's Most Trusted Think Tanks in Two Weeks

The Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) is one of the most secure and respected research institutions in the country. Known for supporting the Pentagon and other federal agencies, IDA provides high-level analysis on national security and science policy. When the organization decided to move its headquarters to a new state-of-the-art facility in Alexandria, Virginia, the expectations were high. The move required speed, security, and zero disruption to operations. To handle a project of this magnitude, IDA turned to Interstate.

CHALLENGES

Because of IDA's mission and the nature of its work, the move had to be executed with extreme precision. There could be no downtime, no data interruptions, and no compromise to security. Interstate had to coordinate with every department to understand their unique needs, maintain a secure chain of custody for classified materials, and be prepared to adapt to last-minute changes. The relocation also took place during a period of evolving COVID-19 protocols and over three major holidays, adding further complexity to the timeline.



CONCLUSION

Interstate began by meeting with each IDA department to plan a phased move that could adapt to changing needs. A detailed daily schedule was created, and a single point of contact was assigned to streamline coordination.

All sensitive materials were moved under strict security guidelines. Only cleared U.S. personnel handled classified items, with GPS tracking and IDA security escorts in place for every transport. The project was staffed with 40 trained team members and six trucks running two shifts per day, including weekends. Services included pre-packing, IT disconnection and reconnection, secure transport, and post-move support. COVID-19 protocols were followed throughout.

To keep associates informed, Interstate launched a Relocation Command Center and provided handbooks, briefings, and help desk support.

The relocation was completed on time and within budget, with no disruptions, no data loss, and full compliance with security and health protocols. Interstate's flexibility and attention to detail helped ensure a smooth transition for one of the nation's most trusted research institutions.