DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 8TH ARMY
UNIT #15236
APO AP 96205-5236

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

EACG

26 SEP. 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR All 8th Army Assigned Soldiers

SUBJECT: 8th Army Command Policy Letter #42 – Permanent or Temporary Change of Station Moves from the Republic of Korea in Support of Operations New Dawn or Enduring Freedom

1. This letter supersedes 8th Army Command Policy Letter #34, 27 October 2008 and 8th Army Command Policy Letter #36, 2 June 2008. It remains in effect until specifically rescinded or superseded.

2. References:

a. Joint Federal Travel Regulation.

b. Army Regulation (AR) 420-1, Army Facilities Management, 2 November 2007.

c. Army Regulation 600-8-105, Military Orders, 28 November 1994.

d. Letter, Republic of Korea Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 24 November 2010.

3. Purpose. To outline requirements for Soldiers conducting either a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) move or a Temporary Change of Station (TCS) move from the Republic of Korea (ROK) in support of Operation New Dawn (OND) or Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), and to ensure that approval from the Commander, 8th Army, is obtained before the Military Personnel Division-Korea (MPD-K) publishes TCS orders for any Soldier who is deploying from the ROK in support of OND or OEF.

4. Background.

a. Temporary change of station is the relocation of personnel to a new Permanent Duty Station (PDS) for a temporary period to perform a long-term temporary assignment, and subsequent return of personnel to the previous PDS after assignment completion. Temporary change of station may be authorized with limited relocation allowances, instead of temporary duty allowances. In such a situation, the long-term temporary assignment location becomes the Soldiers' temporary official duty station. Individual Soldier requests for a TCS move from the ROK in support of OND or OEF are restricted and limited.

b. Except as noted in paragraph 5 below, Soldiers seeking to deploy in support of OND or OEF must either execute a PCS move directly to the Southwest Asia (SWA) theater of operations, or execute a PCS move from the ROK to a continental United States (CONUS) duty station followed by a TCS move to the SWA theater of operations.

5. Discussion.

a. In accordance with paragraph 1-21 of AR 600-8-105, TCS moves from the ROK will be held to a minimum consistent with military necessity. There are no backfills for Soldiers who are deployed on TCS orders. This creates a mission readiness issue for the command. A TCS move from the ROK may negatively impact our ability to provide quality support to assigned Soldiers and their accompanying dependents.

(1) A request for an exception to policy (ETP) that would facilitate a Soldier's TCS move from the ROK in support of OND or OEF must be supported by the commander of the US Army Garrison in the ROK that is responsible for the area within which the Soldier is assigned, and approved by the Commander, 8th Army.

(2) The MPD-K shall not publish TCS orders for any Soldier who is requesting to deploy from the ROK in support of OND or OEF without the prior approval of the Commander, 8th Army.

b. If an ETP request for the issuance of TCS orders is approved, dependents who were already subject to the US-ROK Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) at the time their sponsor received their TCS orders will continue to remain subject to the US-ROK SOFA while their sponsor remains in a TCS status, consistent with reference 1d.

c. If a Soldier departs the ROK pursuant to PCS orders (hereafter referred to as a "PCS Soldier"), the PCS Soldier's dependents may remain in the ROK if they are ROK citizens, or if they are able to qualify for a ROK visa that permits them to remain in the ROK; however, in all of these cases, the continued applicability of the US-ROK SOFA to a PCS Soldier's dependents is not guaranteed and must be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The ROK Government has provided information on ROK visas via the official website of the Korean Immigration Service (http://www.immigration.go.kr/HP/IMM80/index.do).

d. Dependents of PCS Soldiers who are residing in housing on a US Army Garrison in the ROK will be required to relocate to off-post ROK housing. This relocation will be funded by the Government if the Soldier conducts a PCS move directly to OND or OEF.

(1) Overseas Housing Allowance may be authorized only when a Soldier conducts a PCS move directly from the ROK to OND or OEF; a Soldier who conducts a PCS move to a CONUS location prior to deployment is entitled to Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for that duty location. Only one shipment of household goods is authorized per PCS move, but a one-time payment of Dislocation Allowance is also authorized to offset the cost of moving.

(2) Cost of Living Allowance and Family Separation Pay are other entitlements afforded Families while living off-post in the ROK during the sponsor's deployment. Soldiers who execute a PCS move to CONUS followed by a TCS move to OND or OEF must receive Secretariat approval from the Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) G1, Compensation and Entitlements Branch, in order to receive outside the continental United States (OCONUS) pay entitlements as an exception.

e. Command sponsorship of dependents terminates when a Soldier has departed the ROK pursuant to PCS orders. Since command sponsorship, applicability of the US-ROK SOFA, and the entitlements referenced herein are important to Family readiness, Soldiers should consult their chain of command if considering executing a PCS move without their dependents. Soldiers must remember that command sponsorship, applicability of the US-ROK SOFA, and the entitlements referenced herein are based on separate and distinct treaty, statutory, regulatory, and/or policy requirements.

5. Proponent. The Manpower Directorate, 8th Army Assistant Chief of Staff G1, is the proponent for this policy. The contact phone number is DSN 315-724-8849.

JOHN D. JOHNSON
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Commanding