

Korea



2003 8th U.S. Army Welcome Guide

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2003

WELCOME TO KOREA

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COVER SHOT

U.S. Soldiers and DOD civilians are invited to participate in cultural activities such as this traditional fashion show on a regular basis during their tours in the Republic of Korea.

Photo by Sgt. Eric Foltz

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Photo by Sgt. Eric Foltz

Service members arriving in the Republic of Korea get a warm welcome at Osan Air Base. This is the first taste of Korean hospitality for most service members.

As a newly assigned member of the Eighth United States Army, you will be assigned to one of more than 80 Army installations, 18 Air Force sites, or two Navy facilities in the Republic of Korea.

Most military flights touch down in the Republic during daylight hours. Military and family members authorized civilian flights usually arrive in the evening. Depending on your category — command sponsored, with concurrent travel for family; non-command sponsored, traveling with your family; or unaccompanied — there are some things to remember:

There are no special provisions set up to handle billeting, transportation or meals for families. It's largely the responsibility of your sponsor to help with these accommodations when you and your family arrive.

If you have a good sponsor who has made hotel reservations and transportation arrangements, the in-processing staff will usually collect your personnel records at the airport and release you to your sponsor. That's important to a family that arrives at night with young children after a long flight. You get to settle your family in a hotel and report to 8th Personnel Command's (8th PERSCOM) in-processing center the following day.

If no sponsor is there to meet you and you have concurrent travel and command sponsorship specified in

your orders, 8th PERSCOM representatives will allow you to turn in your personnel records, take your family to a hotel and report the next day to complete in-processing. But if you choose this option, you and your family are mostly on your own to find billeting and transportation. You can, however, use military transportation to travel to Yongsan.

The USO counter at the airport will also help you find transportation, provide hotel information and make phone calls.

Note: *The usual way to get concurrent travel for your family is through prior approval from 8th PERSCOM. They grant concurrent travel only if you are command sponsored and if government housing is reserved for you to occupy within a reasonable time after arrival. The only other way to get concurrent travel is if you can show an address here.*

Example: *If you are married to a Korean and he or she has relatives here, you can show their residence as the place your family will live when they arrive. Officers in a command sponsored slot can simply sign an Officer's Trust Statement that he or she has housing arranged.*

Government housing waiting lists are long in Korea. Concurrent travel is rarely granted. Most people who are

ARRIVAL



Photo by Sgt. Eric Foltz

Clearing customs and immigration is the first step upon entry into the Republic of Korea.

command sponsored travel here first and bring their families after securing housing. For more information, see the section on housing on pages 7 and 8.

If you're traveling to Korea with your family and are not command sponsored, what happens to you at the airport may vary. You may be released to your sponsor, but you'll have to pay your hotel bill, since TLA will not start until the following day. If your sponsor is not at the airport, you are required to report directly for in-processing and billeting, and you will be under the control of 8th PERSCOM in-processing personnel.

All servicemembers are processed through customs and initial personnel at the airport. To make this process easier for soldiers, it is recommended that they hand-carry their 201 file, medical records, dental records, leave form and at least 15 copies of their PCS orders.

If you arrive late at night, you'll spend about an hour-and-a-half in-processing at Incheon International Airport prior to being transported to your government-provided billeting location. It is recommended that you pack one bag with basic toiletries, such as a towel and soap, and include one complete BDU and one physical fitness uniform (for weigh-in). This will alleviate having to go through several bags to prepare for in-processing the next day and will make your arrival a smoother process.

The next day you will be transported from your billeting location to the 1st Replacement Company located on South Post in Yongsan, Seoul to complete in-processing. You will usually be shipped to your unit of assignment by noon (if assigned out of the Seoul area), or by close-of-

business if assigned in the Seoul area.

Second Infantry Division soldiers travel the same day if arriving on a daytime military flight, or early the next morning if arriving on an evening civilian flight.

This is just a general look at arriving in Korea. Your particular circumstances may affect how you spend your first hours on the peninsula. The key to having a relatively trouble-free first couple of days in Korea is to have a good, active sponsor. This is especially helpful if you plan on traveling here with your family.

Write your gaining command and ask for a sponsor if you have not been contacted within 90 days of your arrival.

If you get no response within 60 days of travel, have your present commander write directly to your gaining commander on your

behalf. It is the commander's job to ensure you have a sponsor.

Keep in touch with your sponsor. Your sponsor must know your travel plans and any special needs, and should be told if you are traveling with young children and how much luggage you plan to bring with you. All of this helps your sponsor plan effectively on your behalf.

Newly arriving civilians will most likely meet up directly with their sponsor upon arrival, and their sponsor will escort them to their hotel. While the military often delays travel for a servicemember's family because of post housing delays, civilians normally come with their family.

For smooth processing through the immigration authorities, civilian employees should have a valid multiple entry visa issued by the Korean embassy or consulate. The visa is normally obtained upon presentation of PCS orders to the visa issuing office. Many civilian employees also obtain official passports and the visa may be stamped in it. However, it's often preferable to get it stamped in the tourist passport. Should the employee or dependents not be able to obtain a multiple entry visa prior to departure, contact the servicing personnel office upon arrival.

On the first business day after your arrival, report to the servicing civilian personnel office for in-processing. The staff will provide information about overseas allowances and benefits, and direct you to housing referral services.

Most DoD civilians assigned in the Seoul area use the Seoul Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) in Yongsan, 738-8345. For those around Uijongbu,

Tongduchon, Munsan, and Chunchon, use the Camp Red Cloud CPAC in Uijongbu, 732-6090. Around Osan, use the 51st MSSQ Civilian Personnel Flight, 784-6706; and around Kunsan, 782-7524. For those assigned to Camps Humphreys, Long, or Eagle, contact the Camp Humphreys CPAC, 753-8773. For Daegu and Waegwan, use the Camp Henry CPAC in Daegu, 768-6630. In Busan, call the CPAC suboffice at 763-7544.

Virtually all civilian employees live off post in personally rented quarters. Housing markets are good in most areas, so it's normally possible to line up an adequate apartment within 30-45 days.

Osan Air Base Arrival:

Osan AB, Yongsan and geographically separated unit (GSU) personnel. After processing military customs and Korean Immigrations, your sponsor should be there to meet you. If not, contact the Base Intro Manager at 784-6564 for assistance. Your next stop is the Military Personnel Flight for initial processing and a list of appointments.

Kunsan AB personnel. After processing through customs at Osan AB, personnel will re-board the plane and be flown to Kunsan. A representative from your unit should be there to meet you.

Inchon International Airport arrival:

Osan AB, Yongsan and GSU personnel. The recreation center offers a shuttle bus to Osan AB - tickets cost \$15. An Army shuttle bus is available to Yongsan, where a connection to Osan may also be made. Both the Air Force and Army bus schedules are available at the USO desk in the airport terminal. AAFES Taxi service is available to Yongsan at a cost of \$20 to \$30. Osan personnel can go directly to MPF Customer Service Element, Bldg. 936, Rm. 105; Yongsan personnel can go directly to the Air Force Element, Bldg. 2374, DSN 723-8389/8583. Arrivals after duty hours can proceed directly to billeting arrangements made by your sponsor.

Kunsan AB personnel Two options exist upon arrival at Inchon International Airport:

(1) Go to either the KAL or Asiana Airlines domestic terminal ticket counter and purchase a one-way ticket to Kunsan (approximately \$35) for the next available flight. Asiana currently has one evening flight at 6:10. KAL has a morning flight at 11:45 and an evening flight at 7:10.

(2) Take a shuttle bus from the airport (\$15) or an AAFES taxicab (approximately \$60) to Osan. From there, purchase a \$10 Wolf Pack Wheels ticket at the Osan Rec Center. This departs for Kunsan at 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 5 and 10 p.m. on Friday, and 4 and 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Government Quarters

Single service members and service members on unaccompanied tours are housed in bachelor government quarters appropriate to their rank. Bachelor housing varies from small shared houses to barracks and Quonset huts (being replaced by modern barracks) depending on the member's rank, branch of service, and geographical location. However, single permanent party personnel in pay grades E7 and above, otherwise eligible for housing allowances at the without-dependent rate, may choose to live off post, except when the installation commander determines that special circumstances require occupancy of government quarters because of military necessity.

Government family quarters are limited in Korea and available only to command sponsored families, and key and essential DoD civilians. Designated key personnel are assigned quarters on a mandatory basis, while other families may request to be placed on a waiting list for the next available set of quarters appropriate for their family size and servicemember's rank.

The wait may be several months or longer, depending on family size, rank and time of year. Soldiers assigned to accompanied tours will be authorized concurrent travel of family members if housing will be available within 60 days.

Currently, there are government family housing units at the following installations:

Yongsan and Hannam Village (Seoul) — 1253 duplex and apartment units of 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms.

Daegu — 298 duplex and apartment units of 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms.

Osan — 287 apartment units of 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms.

Busan — 83 single family, duplex and apartment units of 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms.

Chinhae — 50 duplex and four-plex units of 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms.

Assignments are made in accordance with governing service regulations. Local assignment policies are in effect and vary at each installation. Waiting lists are normally kept for each grade category and are subdivided into bedroom number categories. Housing eligibility date will be the date of departure from the last permanent duty station.

Although all government quarters are built to American standards, most are much smaller than Americans are used to many are high-rise apartment buildings. There is adequate living and storage space for a family's basic needs, and quarters are generally within walking distance of government support and recreational facilities.

HOUSING



Photo by Spc. Edgar R. Gonzalez

Many single soldiers in Korea have the opportunity to live in recently constructed barracks like these pictured above, located on Camp Red Cloud.

Caution: When staying off-post during cold weather months, make sure the room you are sleeping in is ventilated, especially if it is heated by the old Korean "ondol" system, which may use coal briquettes. Carbon monoxide can easily overwhelm you before you are aware of it, especially while asleep.

You are required to process through the housing office before making any off-post housing commitments.

Economy Quarters

Korean apartment units are individual owned, similar to condos in the U.S. Utilities are usually paid to the local management offices; however, a few services may be billed separately, such as gas bills for cooking and telephone bills which may be paid at local banks.

For people living on the economy, western-style housing is available, although it is expensive and lacks some of the features which are standard in the U.S. Korean-style housing is smaller than what most Americans consider adequate, and most apartments are unfurnished. The housing office will help you with some of the essential items such as stoves, refrigerators, closets, washers and dryers.

Off post, the water supply may not be sanitary for cooking or drinking, so you must boil tap water, haul water from post or buy bottled water.

Koreans typically live in apartments or small houses with only a few rooms used for living, eating and sleeping. Electricity is very expensive.

Rent for apartments in the Seoul area can range from around \$1,500 to 2,000 per month for a three-room (not three-bedroom) apartment.

If you choose to live Korean-style, be sure to understand and comply with U.S. military health regulations. Your proposed living quarters must be inspected and approved by the housing office.

You are required to process through the Housing Office before making any off-post housing commitments.

Bathroom floors are waterproofed and there are no shower curtain rods in most houses or apartments. Pressure type shower rods and curtains, and hooks should be included in your household shipments.

Living in this type of apartment outside the Seoul area can be difficult for American families. Many times the heating system must be supplemented by kerosene or electric heaters to warm the rooms to a comfortable temperature.

Gas clothes dryers are the most economical to operate here and can be more easily connected than electric dryers.

If you choose to live on the economy, be sure to understand and comply with U.S. military health regulations. Your proposed living quarters must be approved by safety and/or housing officials, who will look at such things as plumbing, the heating system, sanitation and fire safety.

Your installation housing office can provide real estate agencies who can help you obtain off-post housing for no fee. Other real estate agents may require a finder's fee for obtaining housing for you.

Basic rent in the Seoul area is comparable to any stateside high-rent city, and does not include utilities.

Some average monthly costs for economy quarters in the Seoul area are:

Size	Rent	Utilities
2 bedroom	\$1,000-\$2,000	\$150-\$250
3 bedroom	\$1,500-\$2,500	\$200-\$350
4 bedroom	\$2,500-\$3,500	\$200-\$450

Housing costs in other areas of Korea generally are lower than in Seoul.

Most rentals require up-front annual rent and the housing office/finance office can assist you with the whole amount.

Three major commands:

United Nations Command

UN flag to repel aggression. The mission of UNC is to maintain the provisions of the Armistice Agreement, which resulted in the cessation of hostilities. The Military Armistice Commission, which supervises implementation of the Armistice, is composed of officers from the UNC, North Korea and China.



U.S. Forces Korea

A U.S. Army four-star general serves as commander-in-chief of the United Nations Command, the ROK/US Combined Forces Command and Commander, U.S. Forces Korea.



USFK includes all U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine, and Special Operations commands stationed in Korea. USFK headquarters is located in Yongsan Army Garrison, Seoul.

Combined Forces Command

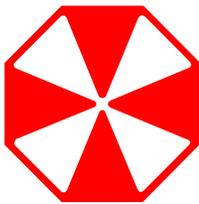
Combined Forces Command exercises operational control over Korean and American forces responsible for the defense of the Republic. Should our mutual policy of deterrence fail, CFC would direct combat operations to defeat an enemy attack. CFC forces are organized into ground, air, and naval components; marines; two major subordinate commands; and when activated, a Special Operations Command.



Five component commands of USFK:

8th U.S. Army

The largest element in Korea today is the 8th U.S. Army, the core force of the United Nations Command during the Korean War. It has been in Korea since 1950.



Major subordinate commands are the 2nd Infantry Division and the 19th Theater Support Command. Eighth Army is headquartered in Yongsan Army Garrison, Seoul.

7th Air Force

The mission of 7th Air Force is to plan and direct air component operations in the ROK.



The 7th AF, headquartered at Osan Air Base, includes the 51st Fighter Wing, 554th RED HORSE Squadron, 607th Air Support Operations, Air Intelligence and Air Operations groups, and the 8th Fighter Wing at Kunsan AB.

U.S. Naval Forces Korea

CNFK is the Navy regional coordinator for the ROK. It provides U.S. Navy expertise to Joint and Combined Commands for plans, policy, and sustainment ashore of Naval forces in defense of the ROK. It also provides liaison in armistice and wartime to U.S. and ROK Naval forces afloat. Its headquarters is in Yongsan with detachments in Chinhae and Pohang.



Special Operations Command Korea

SOC-KOR is the special operations component command for USFK/CFC.

SOC-KOR brings Army, Navy and Air Force special operations forces into the Korean Theater of Operations for the war fighting CINC.

SOC-KOR is headquartered at Camp Kim, Seoul, with subordinate units located across the peninsula.



U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Korea

U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Korea (USMARFORK) is engaged in warfighting and exercise preparation, and service liaison throughout the Korean Theater of Operations. Additional Marines serve on the Joint and Combined staffs throughout Korea.

Headquartered in Yongsan, USMARFORK together with their ROK Marine brothers, form the nucleus of the most potent force of Marines that could be assembled since World War II.



UNITS

8th Military Police Brigade

The 8th MP Brigade, headquartered in Yongsan, conducts wartime missions of area security, law and order, force protection, enemy prisoner of war and battlefield circulation control operations throughout the theater.

The brigade supports the Commanders of USFK and 8th U.S. Army with an uninterrupted flow of combat, combat support and combat service support resources to the combat zone.

The 94th MP Bn. in Yongsan commands and controls all non-divisional military police in the northern one-third of the ROK. The 728th MP Bn. at Camp Henry, Daegu, commands and controls all combat support military police from Camp Humphreys to Camp Hialeah.

6th Cavalry Brigade

The mission of the 6th CAV is to conduct Attack Helicopter Operations as the reserve for the CINCCFC in support of his campaign plan. 6th CAV is headquartered at Camp Humphreys.

The 1st and 3rd Squadrons consist of AH-64 Attack Helicopters and are located at Camps Eagle and Humphreys. The 1st Bn., 43rd Air Defense Artillery (PATRIOT) is attached to the brigade and proudly defends the skies from battle positions across the peninsula.



501st Military Intelligence Brigade

The 501st MI Bde is subordinate to the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, and provides intelligence and security support to headquarters, 8th U.S. Army.

The brigade's mission is to provide combat information and multi-discipline intelligence to joint and combined warfighters. It is comprised of the brigade staff elements and four battalions with remote elements throughout Korea.

Special Forces Detachment-Korea

Special Forces Detachment-Korea serves as liaison between the Korean Special Forces and the U.S. military here on the peninsula. Det-K's operations cover the entire Korean peninsula and involve all branches of the U.S. and ROK military.

Det-K is headquartered in Songnam, with subordinate LNOs located with each of the ROK Special Forces Brigades.

Joint U.S. Military Affairs Group Korea

The Joint U.S. Military Affairs Group-Korea assists Republic of Korea armed forces in management, logistics and organization.

JUSMAG-K also offers guidance in the establishment of industrial and commercial agencies directly related to national defense. JUSMAG-K is headquartered in Yongsan, Seoul.



Logistic Support Element Far East

The mission of the U.S. Army Materiel Command Logistic Support Element Far East (USAMC LSE-FE) is to enhance warfighting weapons system readiness in forward-based and deploying units in Korea and the Pacific Rim.

The Command is headquartered at Camp Market, with subordinate Logistic Assistance Offices at: Camps Casey, Red Cloud, Henry, Humphreys, Carroll, Long, Page, Stanley and Eagle.

Special Operations Theater Support Element

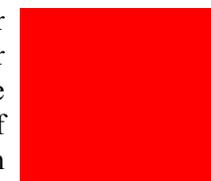
The SOTSE is a forward deployed logistics planning and coordination element for U.S. Army Special Operations Support Command, Ft. Bragg, NC. The SOTSE ensures logistics support is planned and executed for U.S. Army Special Operations Forces deploying into the Korean Theater of Operations.

The SOTSE is headquartered at Camp Coiner, Seoul.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District

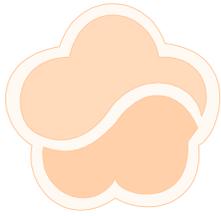
The Far East Engineer District is the Department of Defense Design and Construction Agent for Korea. The district is headquartered in Seoul with offices throughout the peninsula.

During its 40 years of existence in Korea, the Far East Engineer District has "**Built for Peace!**"



19th Theater Support Command

The 19th TSC is the logistics support arm of 8th U.S. Army, with the mission of sustaining combat power throughout the peninsula. It's also responsible for the operations and support of the 82 Army installations in Korea.



It is headquartered on Camp Henry, Daegu, with subordinate commands located in each of the Army's four areas of operation on the peninsula.

17th Aviation Brigade

The 17th Aviation Brigade is headquartered in Yongsan with the 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment at K-16; the 2nd Bn., 52nd Avn. Rgt. at Camp Humphreys; and the 164th Air Traffic Service Group in Yongsan. Subordinate elements are located throughout the peninsula.



From its inception in 1965, the soldiers of the 17th Avn. Bde. have performed with distinction in both peacetime and combat, while remaining at the "**CUTTING EDGE**" of freedom in the Republic.

The 1st Bn, 52nd Avn Rgt provides combat aviation support to USFK, ROK-US CFC and 8th U.S. Army with UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and C-12 Huron fixed-wing aircraft.

The 2nd Bn, 52nd Avn Rgt is the only unit in the Korean theater that provides heavy-lift support assets to USFK, CFC and 8th Army, utilizing CH-47 Chinook helicopters.

The 164th ATS Group provides air traffic services and Army Airspace Command and Control (A2C2) throughout the entire Korean theater in support of all Army aviation operations.

2nd Infantry Division

The 2nd Infantry Division is the major U.S. ground combat unit in Korea. The headquarters is located at Camp Red Cloud, Uijongbu, and its primary mission is to deter war on the Korean peninsula by maintaining a high state of combat readiness and vigilance.



The "SECOND TO NONE" division stands shoulder-to-shoulder with first-echelon Korean units immediately south of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

8th Personnel Command

The mission of 8th PERSCOM is to sustain personnel readiness and exercise command and control over assigned theater-level personnel units.



The theater PERSCOM manages critical personnel systems and synchronizes personnel network operations throughout the theater.

The command is headquartered in Yongsan with subordinate units located throughout Korea.

The 516th Personnel Services Battalion is headquartered in Yongsan with detachments at Camps Henry and Humphreys. Also, Co. D, 516th PSB, is responsible for controlling all incoming mail to Korea. Postal platoons are in Yongsan, Incheon International Airport, Camp Humphreys and Camp Henry.

The 1st Replacement Company is responsible for controlling and processing all incoming soldiers.

The 8th U.S. Army Band in Yongsan, performs throughout Korea.

The 509th PSB at Camp Casey has a subordinate unit, the 19th Adjutant General Company (Postal) with platoons located at Camp Casey and Camp Red Cloud.

United Nations Command Security Battalion Joint Security Area

The UNC Security Battalion-JSA is a combined ROK/US light infantry battalion responsible for the security of the JSA at Panmunjom.

Its mission includes manning Observation Post Ouellette in the DMZ, and running the Panmunjom tour program. The unit is also responsible for the security and civil affairs of Tae Song Dong, the only Korean village within the DMZ.

The 1st Signal Brigade

The 1st Signal Brigade is headquartered in Yongsan with units throughout Korea.



The 1st Sig. Bde. provides strategic and tactical communications, and information management to USFK and component command headquarters in Korea. They provide mobile tactical communications, fixed tactical voice and wide area networking, message center and tactical data communications, satellite communications and contingency restoral of Defense Communications System circuits, long-haul, inter-nodal connectivity between geographically dispersed sites.

1st Sig. Bde. operates and maintains all American Forces Network, radio and television transmission facilities.

The 41st Sig. Bn. in Yongsan provides strategic communications support throughout the northern portion of Korea. While the 36th

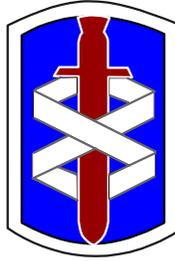
The 41st Sig. Bn. in Daegu covers the southern portion. The brigade has two tactical signal battalions: the 307th Sig. Bn. in Waegwan, and the 304th Sig. Bn. at Camp Colbern. The 304th Sig. Bn. is a forward deployed unit which has been in Korea since the Korean War.

UNITS

18th Medical Command

The 18th MEDCOM, headquartered in Yongsan, is the only forward-deployed theater-level medical command in the U.S. Army. The MEDCOM provides the strategic link to the CONUS medical base and is responsible for planning and executing U.S. Army medical support during armistice and the early stages of conflict.

Its mission is to provide strategic, operational and tactical command and control of assigned, attached and arriving medical units. Additionally, it provides effective and timely combat health support on the peninsula in a manner that reduces evacuation time through synchronized coordination as combat forces initiate operations. In support of Eighth U.S. Army, U.S. Forces Korea and Combined Forces Command, the 18th MEDCOM



serves as the single point of contact for medical operations, planning and staff recommendations.

During armistice the MEDCOM has command and control responsibility; for the 121st General Hospital, the 618th Dental Company (Area Support), the 16th Medical Logistics Battalion, the 52nd Evacuation Battalion, 106th and 129th Medical Detachments (Veterinary Services), and the 168th Area Support Medical Battalion.

These units, along with the medical facilities operated by the 2nd ID, are the elements of the EUSA Integrated Healthcare Organization that carries out the TRICARE mission for the peninsula.

175th Finance Command

175th FINCOM funds the building of combat power by providing appropriated and nonappropriated fund accounting services to soldiers and civilian employees, and provides staff finance and accounting policy advice and operational guidance for the theater.

The FINCOM is headquartered in Yongsan with subordinate units throughout the peninsula. The 176th Finance Battalion (FB) in Yongsan provides finance support to units in Yongsan and Camps Humphreys and Henry. The 177th FB at Camp Casey provides finance support to the 2nd Infantry Division. The 177th FB also has finance support teams at Camps Stanley and Howze.

The Centralized Pay and Accounting Division provides accounting, vendor pay, foreign national pay, and civilian pay customer services for all U.S.



Photo by Sgt. Eric Foltz

Tough, realistic training is the standard for soldiers stationed in the Republic of Korea. The tankers of "First Tank" seen here are participating in annual gunnery at the Korea Training Center. Soldiers in Korea train with a "Fight Tonight" attitude influenced by the proximity of North Korea just a few kilometers away. Below: A Republic of Korea Army soldier keeps watch at the Demilitarized Zone, the most heavily armed border in the world.

On-post Shopping

The Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) operates an efficient and cost-effective commissary system which provides a non-pay benefit. Profits improve the quality of life of patrons and enhances military readiness.

The commissary system in Korea consists of four full-service stores at Yongsan, Osan, Taegu and Pusan. Ten branch stores are at Camps Page, Casey, Stanley, Edwards, Howze, Humphreys, Carroll; and at Hannam Village, Kunsan Air Base and Chinhae Naval Base.

The full-service sites carry a wide selection of brand-name U.S. goods shipped directly from the states. Selected fresh meat, produce, bakery, deli and milk are U.S. products. Some produce items are procured locally.

Off-Post Shopping

Shopping on the economy can be



Photo by Pfc. Kim Dae Dong

PX/BXs provide service members name-brand items at a good price.

fun and inexpensive, but also requires a fair amount of flexibility.

Ready-made clothing is a good buy in Korea. American styles and sizes are available in communities surrounding most military bases. Jeans, T-shirts, dress shirts, sweaters, jack-

ets and athletic shoes are often sold at reasonable prices. Many of the "name brands" are counterfeit, while others are flawed. A few are merely factory overruns of legitimate items.

AAFES

The post exchange offers military and DoD civilians a wide range of facilities throughout the Republic of Korea.

Most installations have a main store or annex carrying a selection of state-side goods. These outlets are similar in most ways to exchanges in the States.

The exchange system accepts major American credit cards (Visa, Master Card and Discover) at its retail facilities. You can also use the AAFES deferred payment plan for most purchases, including military clothing sales store purchases. You can apply for DPP at most main exchanges.

There are also many AAFES theaters throughout Korea that show popular movies at low prices.



Photo by Sgt. Eric Foltz

Soldiers can enjoy traditional Korean markets such as Namdaemun Market in downtown Seoul close to Yongsan Army Garrison. Exploring the markets is a great way to see Korean culture and meet the populace.



USO tours and entertainment by well-known acts regularly visit Korea.

status regardless of the cost of the housing they actually rent or buy. To receive this entitlement, servicemembers must submit a copy of their mortgage or rental contract to their servicing finance office, upon arrival in Korea.

If you bring your family members to Korea at your own expense, you will face several hardships, including financial. Non-command sponsored families are not authorized government quarters or financial assistance in paying off-post rent. Depending on your job and where you are stationed, you may be required to live in the barracks, dormitory or BEQ/BOQ. This is especially true of soldiers assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division or other units lo-

cated north of Seoul. This area is considered a potential combat area and unsuitable for family members.

Medical and dental care is provided on a space available basis to all family members. Dental care at Camp Casey is limited to emergencies only.

Personnel in the rank of sergeant and below will register privately owned vehicles in USFK only when authorized with an exception to policy. Within the 2nd Infantry Division area, no one may register a vehicle unless a rare exception to policy is authorized by the commander.

Ration privilege restrictions on non-command sponsored personnel may cause personal hardship. For information on ration privileges, contact Ration Control, DSN 723-7189, Comm 82-2-7913-7189.

School-age children who are not command sponsored are authorized attendance at DoD schools only on a space-available and cost-reimbursable basis. Seoul American High School has limited space available and most elementary schools are at or near maximum capacity.

Command sponsored dependent students (unmarried) under the age of 23 are authorized one funded round-trip annually. The student must attend, or will attend, an accredited college, university, technical or business school in the U.S. on a full-time basis.

The student's travel to Korea must be accomplished using the sponsor's PCS order. The sponsor must provide his personnel services activity a copy of a "Letter of Attendance" from the institution, stating the student is attending the school on a full-time basis.

Contact your local transportation office or personnel services activity for assistance.

From a family viewpoint there are two types of tours for military personnel in Korea. Of approximately 37,000 U.S. military positions in Korea, only about 3,000 are command sponsored two-year tours that permit service members to bring their families at government expense and allow the full range of government benefits.

The remainder are unaccompanied tours, also known as "non-command sponsored, hardship, or remote" tours.

Because Korea is a potential combat zone, the number of family members in country has been restricted for security and evacuation purposes. To enforce this, the U.S. Congress has severely limited the military benefits normally available to families.

Command sponsored families have full access to post and base exchanges, commissaries, medical care, schools and other facilities. They are authorized to live in government housing, or if it's not available, receive financial assistance with their rent.

The sponsor's ration control limits are based on their sponsorship status and number of authorized family members residing in their household.

Personnel on an unaccompanied tour are not authorized to bring their families to Korea. If families are left behind in the states, they may receive housing, exchange, commissary, medical and other benefits at a military installation near their home, and are eligible to be moved to an alternate location at government expense.

Unaccompanied personnel are authorized Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for the location of their family members. Members will receive the full amount of housing allowance allotted for their pay grade and dependency

Personal Property

The Status of Forces Agreement allows military personnel, invited contractors, technical representatives, and their families assigned to United States Forces Korea (USFK) to ship a limited quantity of personal property into Korea without paying duty or customs taxes for a period of six months after arrival (a.k.a. "the six month rule"). Personal property includes any item shipped in household goods, unaccompanied baggage, through the APO, or hand carried to the port of entry (normally Incheon International Airport or Osan Airbase). As a result, USFK personnel governed by the SOFA are not authorized to:

- Use their duty-free privileges to import goods into or from Korea for the purpose of realizing personal gain or profit, or for providing a gain or profit for any other individual.

- Use their duty-free privileges to import duty-free property when the property is not intended for the personal use of the individual or the individual's SOFA dependents. As a result, importing commercial goods for resale or gifts is prohibited.

- Deliberately import goods into Korea in quantities exceeding personal needs, the needs of their bona fide dependents, or reasonable quantities for bona fide maintenance or welfare gifts as defined in USFK Regulation 643-2. Final decisions on reasonable quantities of personal property will be made to the Chief, SOFA Support Division, USFK Provost Marshal's Office, 738-5101.

- Vehicles, vehicle parts, and items shipped into Korea through the APO are not subject to the six month rule. However, import restrictions on types of items and the prohibition on items in excess of personal need still apply in these cases.

Enforcement

USFK Customs Inspectors routinely inspect household goods and unaccompanied baggage hard-copy inventories and deliveries at quarters, shipments of commercial cargo, hand-carried luggage, and personal effects at USFK ports of entry to detect violations.

Under the SOFA agreement, US military investigators and Korea Customs Service officers/inspectors routinely conduct joint investigations of customs offenses. Violators are dealt with severely under applicable United States and Republic of Korea laws. The government of the Republic of Korea may take jurisdiction in such cases and prosecute violators in their court system. Other punishments include administrative actions and judicial or nonjudicial punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. For further information, contact the USFK Customs office at 738-5110/4247/5101.

Import Restrictions

Republic of Korea law and USFK regulations extremely limit the types of personal property that may be imported. Items restricted or prohibited from importation are: Fresh fruits and vegetables, animal products such as unprocessed meats, endangered species or products made from endangered species (e.g. alligator handbag), exotic pets, counterfeit currency, communist propaganda, material that may compromise the security of the Republic of Korea, pornography, aphrodisiacs (e.g. deer horn), narcotics (e.g. hashish, cocaine), flammables, uncut stones, explosives, and weapons. Importation of items in excess of personal needs is also prohibited (e.g. Currency greater than \$10,000 USD, more than 200 cigarettes, more than one liter of alcoholic beverage).

Firearms/Weapons

USFK and Korea Customs Inspectors strictly control the importation of weapons of all types. Many weapons commonly available for purchase and use in the States directly violate USFK regulations. Leave all types of private weapons in the U.S. before leaving for PCS assignment. A detailed list of prohibited weapons is available in USFK regulations. Personnel are advised not to bring; knives with a blade length greater than four inches, BB or pellet guns, modified or sawed-off rifles/shotguns, explosives, martial arts weapons, club-type weapons, brass knuckles, or shooting pens capable of chemical discharges.

Department of Defense (DoD) regulations authorize privately owned firearms, other than those specified below in the prohibited weapons list, as excepted, to be shipped into the Republic of Korea. Personnel will not ship any firearm or ammunition in household goods, or accompanied or unaccompanied baggage, except as prescribed in DoD regulations.

Weapons not in the prohibited weapons list are authorized for importation. Even authorized weapons will be seized and stored by customs officials until the gaining commander certifies proper use and storage.

Firearms (a.k.a. "Class A" weapons) must be registered with the local Provost Marshal or Security Forces Squadron within 72 hours of the weapon arriving in Korea or prior to arrival of the household goods shipment.

Personnel must have a bill of sale, registration from the last duty assignment, or a bill of lading for the weapon in order to complete the registration process.

Pets have to be brought into Korea via commercial means. See *Veterinary* on Page 26 for information.

STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT

The U.S.-Republic of Korea Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) is an international agreement designed to serve the mutual interests of the U.S. and the ROK to regulate all matters related to the presence of U.S. forces involved in defending the ROK from external aggression. It protects the basic human rights of U.S. citizens subject to its provisions.

The SOFA defines the legal rights and obligations of service members, civilians and dependents while in Korea, and provides facilities and land for military use. The agreement also ensures a supportive environment for the U.S. military forces, essential to basic quality of life. In effect, the SOFA covers everything concerning USFK military and civilian personnel and their family members -- from their entry, until their exit from the ROK.

The SOFA sets forth each nation's responsibility with respect to many subjects, including facilities and areas used by U.S. forces, entry and exit of U.S. personnel, customs, taxation, criminal jurisdiction, claims procedures, health and sanitation, use of utilities and USFK's employment of Korean citizens.

The SOFA applies to members of the U.S. Armed Forces, civilian employees, invited contractors, technical representatives and their dependents. Civilian and military personnel of the U.S. Embassy and JUSMAG-K enjoy privileges under the SOFA, but are covered by separate agreements with the ROK government.

SOFA-status personnel are obliged to respect the laws of the ROK and abstain from any activity

inconsistent with the spirit of the agreement and, in particular, from any political activity. In some cases the SOFA supersedes or abridges Korean law. For example, active duty military personnel are exempt from passport and visa requirements and SOFA-status personnel are exempt from Korean taxes on wages and salaries paid by the U.S. government.

For SOFA-status personnel entering Korea on a passport, the Korean visa should be category "A-3" and authorize "multiple entry." Passport holders must also have "SOFA Verification" stamped next to the visa. Application for "A-3," multiple entry visa classification and SOFA verification are made free of charge on request at any ROK Immigration Office. Contact the local Army Community Services (ACS), Military or Civilian Personnel Office (CPO) for information and necessary paperwork.

The SOFA also fully acknowledges the ROK government's right to request jurisdiction over USFK personnel accused of violating Korean laws.

SOFA-status personnel are encouraged to carry a "SOFA Card" at all times. The card (USFK FL 1EK) includes instructions in case you are involved with Korean law enforcement officials and need assistance. A statement of SOFA status and emergency telephone numbers are written in Korean and English. SOFA cards are available through unit orderly rooms and civilian personnel offices.

The rationale behind ration control

The U.S. government is authorized to import items sold in the exchange, commissary, and MWR facilities without paying customs duties on them.

This provision of the SOFA allows U.S. servicemembers to purchase goods duty-free. Along with that provision is the requirement to control the purchase of these goods. A ration control system has been established to discourage the flow of U.S. goods into the black market.

Active duty patrons are required to present only a valid identification (ID) card to access duty free facilities. Active reserve members, civilian sponsors and their dependents are required to present a valid ID card and ration control plate. All purchases are recorded in a computer database by the amount and type of rationed items purchased. Commanders and law enforcement agencies can review the complete purchasing record of any individual or family at any time, as an aid in enforcement of black marketing laws and regulations.

Each active duty member and civilian employee is authorized a monthly quantity limit on liquor and beer, and a monthly commissary dollar limit based on family size.

Shelf limits are placed on selected items by retail facility managers and installation commanders. These limits specify the number of items which may be purchased per day.

Non-consumable items which are not normally purchased more than once per tour per household and are difficult to maintain in stock (TVs, refrigerators, stereos, etc.) are considered controlled items.

Reference USFK Regulation 60-1 for details.



Photo by Sgt. Eric W. Foltz

The well-developed subway, bus and train systems in major cities offer convenient modes of transportation in Korea at less than a dollar per trip.

Several methods of public transportation are available in Korea. A newcomer may find it intimidating, but knowledge of the public transportation system will make your stay more enjoyable.

Subways

Finding your way around in the well-developed Seoul and Busan subway systems is easy with the help of a color-coded subway map. Pick up a subway map at subway stations, Army Community Services (ACSS) and USO. All signs are marked in Hangeul (Korean letter) and English.

Once inside the proper station, first tell the cashier at the ticket window your final destination. Then, request "han-jang" (one ticket). Or you can just hold up fingers for the number of tickets you want and say the station name, or point to it on your map.

Buses

City buses provide thorough coverage of most cities and are one of the most common means of transportation. The fare is about \$.40 to \$.90 depending on the quality of the bus. If you learn which buses go to your favorite spots, you will have a very inexpensive form of transportation.

Highway buses are extensive, and intervals are usually five to 30 minutes depending on the area.

The five-and-a-half hour trip between Seoul and Busan costs about \$14 for a 45-passenger bus and \$21.50

for a deluxe 27-passenger bus.

U.S. military buses link almost every military base. For schedules and tickets, check your area bus terminal. In the Seoul area, call **723-8006** for commercial buses and **723-4499** for military bus schedules and fares.

Base shuttle buses are available on most posts. These buses run at little or no charge depending on location and type of transportation.

Taxis

There are various types of taxis available. Knowing the difference can make your travel more convenient and can also save you money. Hail a taxi by waving with the fingers pointing down, not up.

AAFES Taxis are available on most posts. This taxi service is the only one authorized to operate on military bases. The drivers speak English and the fare is paid in dollars.

Korean Taxis are inexpensive. Directions in Korean are helpful and sometimes essential.

Pick up a "taxi card" at the USO. A bilingual volunteer will write your destination in Hangeul which can be presented to a taxi driver. Be sure to ask for another card with your home address.

The larger black taxis with "**Deluxe Taxi**" written on the sides are call taxis and more expensive than regular taxis. You can also hail these taxis on the street.

TRANSPORTATION

Trains

Train travel around the country is reliable and relaxing. The Blue Train, Saemaul-ho, is as good as America's Metroliner, but less than half the fare. For information and assistance contact the Transportation Movement Office.

American service members and DoD civilians who travel at their own expense can obtain a 25 percent discount. Discount tickets can be purchased at any one of the 13 TMOs or Rail Transportation Offices throughout Korea. With a discount coupon for U.N. Forces (Form EATC 89) and a valid ID card, you can also purchase the discount ticket at other Korean National Railroad stations.

Automobiles

Eligibility to ship a privately owned vehicle to Korea depends on your branch of service or civilian component, your grade and the geographical location of your new duty station. Consult your transportation office to determine your eligibility.

For regulations and procedures about shipping your POV, contact your transportation office well in advance of your move to Korea. They can also advise you on shipment at your own expense.

Unleaded gas is available at all AAFES and off-post fuel stations. Vehicle repair is limited for newer cars in Korea. Service for performance or specialty vehicles may not be available at AAFES-Korea car care centers.

Picking up your vehicle

There are three vehicle processing centers (VPC) in the ROK -- Seoul, Busan and Daegu. Contact the VPC at your installation to arrange pick up of your vehicle. Be sure to have your military identification, POV shipping document (DD Form 788) and two copies of PCS orders. Add one copy of a Power of Attorney or Letter of Authorization if the vehicle is to be picked up by someone other than the sponsor. To make arrangements call DSN 763-7680 for Busan, and 725-7011/7112 for Seoul. Call commercial (053) 473-8112 for Daegu.

Buying a used car in Korea

As on any military base overseas, you can purchase a used car from departing service members at a reasonable price as long as you meet the requirements for licensing and registering in USFK Regulation 190-1. Operating a motor vehicle in Korea is a conditional privilege granted by the ROK, the Commander, USFK and Area Commanders. Consider this option before you decide to bring your car to Korea. Large gas-guzzlers aren't the best way to get around in Korea, especially if you prefer to drive in the city. Except for the expressways and large streets of the big

cities, roads are narrow and crowded, with three or four cars trying to fit in two lanes. Parking is at a premium.

Registering your vehicle

You must register your POV with a USFK Vehicle Recorder within 10 days of date of purchase or arrival in Korea. Mopeds and motorcycles are classified as POVs.

Documents needed to register your vehicle: identification card, proof of ownership, proof of insurance, Korean customs import document (3702-55B), valid USFK driver's license, copy of orders authorizing shipment or DD Form 788 (private vehicle shipment document.), vehicle safety inspection certificate less than 30-days old and application for vehicle registration (USFK Form 31EK).

Purchasing a vehicle in Korea requires the same documents for registration. The vehicle registration is good for one year. To renew it you must present a new vehicle safety inspection to the vehicle recorder.

If you reside or work in Area I, you must request an exception to policy to own/operate a POV. All Area II or Yongsan personnel must outprocess the Provost Marshal's Office at the Pass and ID/Vehicle Registration Office. Call 724-6363 or 7211 for questions.

Driver's license

U.S. forces personnel in Korea who wish to drive POVs must have a USFK driver's license. Active duty military personnel, civilian employees and family members age 18 or older are required to take a written test to receive a USFK driver's license. Military personnel are issued a USFK driver's license for two years, while DoD civilians are issued a five-year license.

Family members age 16 and older may obtain a learner's permit. This is good for driving only during daylight hours on military installations while accompanied by a licensed driver.

Insurance Requirements

The accident rate in Korea is high; consequently the price you pay to insure your vehicle in Korea is high. The vast majority of U.S. insurers will not -- or in some cases, because of ROK restrictions on U.S. insurers cannot -- continue your U.S. insurance coverage in Korea.

While insurance costs are high here, you'll find out that using local companies is usually cheaper than most U.S. companies that can continue service in Korea.

Insurance here is an absolute necessity. You cannot register your vehicle without it. Additionally, ROK law often demands high payment from individuals involved in accidents, especially when there is injury or death. Most often, it doesn't matter who is at fault.

Highly qualified and fully certified teachers provide a rich and unique educational experience to students whose parents/guardians are stationed in Korea. All schools are accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and meet the rigorous standards set by this stateside agency. In the most recent school year, students of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS) in Korea scored significantly higher on the SAT than the national average, and the highest of all Department of Defense Educational Activity districts (DoDEA).

DoDDS in Korea offer a wide range of programs for about 4,020 students. Extra-curricular activities, clubs and sports give students the opportunity to enrich their school experiences and be involved in social organizations. Programs for the talented and gifted, students with disabilities, students learning English as a second language, Sure Start, and students needing special assistance in compensatory programs are available. All schools provide cultural-awareness programs.

Internet connectivity is available in all schools. Students interact with other students and teachers all over the world giving small schools access to educational programs normally available only in large schools.

AAFES operates school lunch programs at DoDDS in Osan, Daegu, Busan and Seoul. The installation Army Community Service of Family Services office determines eligibility for free or reduced-price meals.

Pusan American School at Camp Hialeah in Busan has a unique multi-national population of about 200 students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. The school offers a variety of extra-curricular activities, and has an Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program. DSN 763-7528, www.pusan_un.pac.odedodea.edu

C.T. Joy Elementary School at Fleet Activities, Chinhae, provides a warm, caring atmosphere. The school with 30 students offers unique opportunities for individual attention and progress in multi-grade classes for students in grades K-6. DSN 762-5466, www.ctjoy_es.pac.odedodea.edu

Taegu American School: "Working Together, Ensuring Success" is the motto that guides this K-12 school with 615 students at Camp George. The school houses a

wide range of facilities and has a staff of 60 teachers. The school offers JROTC and Sure Start programs. Commercial: 053-473-4355, www.taegu_un.pac.odedodea.edu

Osan American Elementary School serves 460 students in kindergarten through 6th grade. The staff of 35 teachers recognizes each child as a unique individual. A Sure Start program is available for eligible pre-schoolers. DSN 784-9076, www.korea.pac.odedodea.edu/schools/oaes

Osan American High School enrolls 283 students in grades 7 through 12 with a staff of 35 educators. OAHS features one of the most modern educational facilities in DoDDS and has an excellent Air Force JROTC program. DSN 784-9076, www.korea.pac.odedodea.edu/schools/oahs

Camp Humphreys Annex serves approximately 60 students in grades K-1. The school is administered from Osan American Elementary School. Future plans for Camp Humphreys include a K-6 school. DSN 753-3862

Seoul American Elementary School: The "School of Success" is one of the largest elementary schools in the Pacific Region. Students in kindergarten through 5th grade are involved in a strong academic curriculum. A staff of 104 teaches the 1200 stu-

dents. A Sure Start program is available for eligible pre-schoolers. DSN 736-5437, www.korea.pac.odedodea.edu/schools/saes

Seoul American Middle School serves 600 students in grades 6-8. A staff of 50 teachers provide an age appropriate program designed to meet the needs of middle school students. DSN 736-7364, www.korea.pac.odedodea.edu/schools/sams

Seoul American High School is the "Home of the Falcons," and has an enrollment of 600 students in grades 9 through 12, and a staff of 60 teachers. It offers a curriculum designed to fit the college-bound student including; advanced placement courses, four foreign languages, a modern technology program and an Army JROTC program. DSN 797-3666, www.korea.pac.odedodea.edu/schools/sahs

For more information, please visit these websites; www.korea.pac.odedodea.edu or DoDEA web site, www.odedodea.edu



Post libraries offer soldiers a place to study or take classes during their tour in the Republic of Korea.

EDUCATION

Documents required for DoDDS registration

Please bring the following documents to register:

1. Sponsor's travel orders and proof of command sponsorship (showing dependent's name).
2. Certificate of immunization.
3. Records from previous schools, when available.
4. Birth certificate or passport for first-time enrollment in pre-school, kindergarten and 1st grade.

Eligibility

The general categories of enrollment eligibility are:

Priority I - Space required, tuition free for command sponsored family members of military and DoD civilians.

Priority II - Space available, tuition paying, federally-connected for authorized family members of sponsors, such as, employees of other U.S. government agencies, technical representatives of contractors, Red Cross employees, etc.

Priority III - Space available, tuition free for non-command sponsored dependents of military and DoD personnel.

Priority IV - Space available, tuition paying for family members of private U.S. citizens and third country nationals residing in Korea (non-federally connected).

Private Schools

Children who are not eligible to attend DoDDS may be enrolled in one of the English-speaking private schools. These include: Seoul Foreign School, Seoul International School, Seoul Academy, Seoul British School and Early Childhood Learning Center. There are also private schools in Busan, Taejon and Uijongbu.

These schools offer a variety of class sizes, academic standards, student-to-teacher ratios, extracurricular activities and areas of emphasis. Some are fully accredited with certified teachers, some are not. Tuition ranges from around \$2,000 to almost \$13,700 per child per school year. Some offer monthly payment plans and family discounts. The International Christian School Songtan campus is located about 10 minutes from Osan AB main gate and the school's tuition ranges from about \$400-\$450 monthly. The school year is nine months.

Adult Education

All service members, family members and DoD civilians assigned to the Republic of Korea are encouraged to take advantage of the Army Continuing Education System (ACES).

The system is organized to provide quality education programs and services, regardless of assignment and location, based on limited resources available.

Even shift workers and students in small units have opportunities to continue their education through the system's diverse programs.

Army Education Centers at large installations offer full ranges of educational programs and services ranging from Functional Academic Skills Training (FAST) program to graduate level. Eligible service members may receive up to 75 percent Tuition Assistance (TA) for college courses up to and including Masters Degree level.

As of October 1998, DoD policy entitles service members \$3,500 TA per fiscal year with a cap of \$187.50 per credit hour funded by the Government.

There are a growing number of Distance Education (DE) programs, up to and including the graduate level, available. All Air Force and Army Education Centers have information on these programs.

Most Army installations provide undergraduate level college courses via the MWR Mind's Eye Education TV (ETV) Channel 4. This initiative will expand 8th Army-wide, and if demand justifies, an additional channel or channels could be made available.

At smaller Army installations, certificate and associate degree programs are available through Central Texas College (CTC). Certificates, and associate and baccalaureate degrees are available through University of Maryland programs. Counseling, testing and other services are available to all 8th Army soldiers at AECs or Army Learning Centers. Upfront TA for DE courses is now available. The \$3,500 annual entitlement and \$187.50 TA cap also applies to DE courses.

A limited number of graduate programs are available at large installations like Yongsan and Camp Henry, through Troy State University (TSU). Each school provides a web site where you can obtain additional information on their Far East Division programs.

At Osan Air Base, graduate programs are offered through the University of Oklahoma and Troy State University on an accelerated schedule so degrees can be earned in a relatively short period of time. The University of Maryland Asian Division offers a degree via the Distance Learning format with access to e-mail and the World Wide Web. In addition, Osan also offers a cable TV education channel that provides CLEP and DANTES test preparation. Central Texas College offers technical two-year occupational programs. The Air Force has a Tuition Assistance program for spouses which can provide up to \$300 per term.

At Kunsan Air Base, Undergraduate programs are available through the Community College of the Air Force, Central Texas College and the University of Maryland.

Medical

The 121st General Hospital provides medical care for people stationed in the Seoul area as well as specialty care for others.

It has an in-patient capacity of 69 and has extensive out-patient facilities that provide medical, surgical, obstetrical, gynecological, pediatric and psychiatric care. A drug and alcohol treatment center provides treatment for military, DoD civilians, and their families. Overseas medical screening is required for all family members coming to Korea. Many specialty services are not available here.

Government-employed civilians and their family members are charged variable rates for appointments, out-patient treatment and in-patient care, depending on the services provided. Military troops and their family members receive out-patient care free of charge. Family members who are hospitalized incur a \$10.20 per day charge. Enlisted troops use meal cards or are taken off separate rations; officers pay \$8.00 per day.

Patients requiring medical care beyond the capabilities of the 121st General Hospital may be referred to accredited Korean hospitals or evacuated to other military hospitals in Japan or Hawaii.

Dental Care

The 168th Dental Company offers general dental services at 13 dental clinics throughout Korea.

Family members may obtain routine care at dental clinic (DC)#2 in Yongsan and at dental clinics in Camps Humphreys, Walker and Hialeah. Active duty family members may also receive care on the economy through the Tricare Family Member Dental Plan, Overseas Extension. They must, however, seek care at their assigned military dental clinic first. Children are treated at Bldg 3576 (DC #3) in Yongsan. One week a month a pediatric dentist and an orthodontist also provide treatment for children at Camp Walker. DoD civilians and their family members are charged rates for dental services depending on the services provided. No distinction is made between command sponsored and non-command sponsored family members.

Limited specialty care is available in Yongsan, Seoul. Orthodontic care is generally limited to those who arrive in Korea with existing dental appliances.

Veterinary

Pets must accompany the member on a commercial airline arriving at Incheon International Airport or be shipped separately as freight. Contact the USFK Customs office at DSN 738-5110 for instructions on customs clearance.

Transporting your pet(s) into and out of the country is at

your own expense. MWR boarding facilities are available at Yongsan and Osan Air Base. Check with these facilities for their vaccination requirements, which may be different from the requirements to import or export your pet. On and off-post housing is generally cramped with either no or limited outdoor access. Pets are not allowed in Hannam Village in Seoul.

Before shipping your pet, you must have a health certificate, either from a military or a civilian 'federally accredited' veterinarian, filled out and signed within 10 days of arrival. Dogs and cats must have current rabies vaccination certificates; generally current is defined as greater than 30 days but less than one year.

The following vaccinations are not required, but are strongly recommended for import/export:

Dogs: Canine Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza and Parvovirus. You may consider Bordetella if you're planning to board your dog.

Cats: Feline Distemper, Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Chlamydia and Feline Leukemia. If your cat is a strictly indoor cat, you might want to discuss the benefits versus risks associated with these vaccines.

Make sure that you have the original plus three copies of the health and rabies certificate.

129th Med Det (VM) has an importation/exportation information paper available. This can either be picked up by your sponsor or you may request one from: 129th Med Det (VM), Unit #15680, APO AP 96205-0680.

Korean Medical Treatment

Korean medical practice differs somewhat from the U.S. Korean law and medical practices permit over-the-counter sale of some drugs that are available only by prescription in the states. For this reason, Korean pharmacies are off limits to U.S. personnel and their families.

Although there are many fine hospitals and medical specialists often consulted and recommended by American military doctors, you are not authorized to go to a Korean doctor or clinic for treatment on your own. Your unfamiliarity may lead you to seek care from an unqualified or unlicensed source. Except in an emergency, use of Korean medical practitioners and medicines should only be at the advice and referral of a U.S. military physician.

SERVICES

Religious Services

The Ministry Teams of the Army, Navy and Air Force in Korea offer a variety of religious services and worship opportunities to military members. The chaplains offer daily morning devotions on AFN Korea Monday through Friday. Also available are counseling services, marriage enrichment and outreach programs, for non-command sponsored spouses and family members.

The Religious Retreat Center in Seoul is open to all service personnel and their families. The Chaplain Family Life Center in Hannam Village (DSN 723-3239) and Chaplain Family Life Center Annexes are at 19th Theater Support Command and 2nd Infantry Division. These centers provide family education dealing with parenting, marriage and cross-cultural issues. The trained staffs offer private counseling in the areas of marriage and family issues. The centers also offer a theater-wide outreach program for non-command sponsored family members.

For more information about religious services, or for a particular religious need, call the senior chaplain of any service:

Army: Office of the Command Chaplain, Seoul, DSN 725-6009

Navy: Command Chaplain, Fleet Activities, Chinhae, DSN 762-5388

Air Force: Senior Chaplain, 7th AF and 51st Wing, Osan, DSN 784-5000

Exceptional Family Member Program

Exceptional Family Member Program services are available in Korea to families of all military and DoD civilian employees. Proper overseas screening (medical and educational needs) is required before bringing families to Korea. Services in outlying areas, such as Chinhae, Busan and Daegu are limited.

DoD schools in Seoul offer a wide range of educational and related services special. Schools outside of Seoul are generally staffed to provide services to students with mild disabilities only. Medical services are provided by the EFMP clinic in Yongsan.

Parents of children with disabilities should contact the EFMP at Army Community Service in your area for assistance. The coordinator will provide information on medical and educational services for your family member with special needs. Eighth Army's Exceptional Family Member population ranges from 375 to 400.

Legal Services

Legal assistance and claims services are available to military and DoD civilian personnel and their families throughout Korea. Dedicated to addressing personal legal problems, legal assistance operations also support seasonal tax assistance centers across Korea. Tax centers offer assistance preparing tax returns, and also support electronic filing of both federal and state returns.

Questions regarding legal issues with official implications, such as personnel actions or organizational legal issues should be addressed through the member's chain of command to the supporting Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

Postal

The Military Postal System operates U.S. Postal Service branches on almost every installation in Korea. Stamps, money orders, package mailing, and accountable mail services are available at most branches. Express Mail service to and from the United States is now available at most military post offices.

Authorized customers include all active duty military and Department of Defense civilians and their family members.

Retired military people and their family members are limited to letters and packages up to 16 oz. Service members and their families on leave in the Republic of Korea are authorized limited Military Post Office (MPO) privileges.

Personal mail is normally received at Incheon Airport in Seoul every day and is forwarded to units within 24 hours of arrival. Personal mail must be addressed to you at your unit. The MPO will not deliver to residential addresses, even those on post. 1st AG Replacement Detachment is not to be used as forwarding address. Use Casual Mail Directory, Unit #15330, APO AP 96207-9998. All service members should complete PS Form 3576 prior to departure from their losing command to ensure prompt mail delivery.

Letter mail is generally received from the U.S. within five to seven days, while packages may take from four days to four weeks depending on the mailing class.

On-base Telephone Services

Installation of phones for on-post family quarters costs \$4.50, with a monthly cost of \$22.95 for a single phone and \$2.50 for each additional extension.

This phone service lets you call any office or home throughout the military phone system in Korea, or to an off-post commercial number within the same city. You can also book official calls through the Defense Switch Network to America and the Pacific. Each military phone number can be dialed from off-post by using the Korean commercial prefix for your area plus the last four or five digits of your number.

Most unaccompanied quarters have Class C service which allows you to call on-post and to receive calls from any location. However, you cannot accept collect calls using this service.

Calls to the U.S.

Calls to the United States can be made through several different long-distance carriers from any military phone. Carriers include AT&T, MCI and Sprint.

Using Korea TELECOM, you can either dial directly to the states or call through an operator.

People in the states can dial directly to your number in Korea using the country code (82) and city code, plus the commercial number to your house, or they can ask the overseas operator to place the call.

Health, Morale and Welfare Calls

HMW calls can be made to family members using the Defense Switch Network (DSN) service. Calls are authorized for soldiers and DoD civilians on tours of duty in remote areas. Calls can be placed using military communications systems provided no additional costs and no toll charges are incurred by the Government. Contact

your unit telecommunications officer for information on this no-cost service. Some constraints apply for use of this service.

Off-base Telephone Services

Off-post residents may apply for commercial phone service from a Korea TELECOM office.

The waiting period and deposit required varies by location. In Seoul, the waiting period is two working days. There are two types of phone subscriptions: The initial cost of Type I is approximately \$230 for key deposit, including \$7 for installation and processing. For U.S. military personnel, the key deposit can be drawn from finance as part of an advanced housing allowance. The monthly service fee is about \$2 plus \$.40 for each local call and any additional long distance charges. Ten-percent tax is added to the total monthly charges. Type II is non-refundable and costs about \$95 for the initial installment with about \$3.50 for the monthly basic fee.

To get your refund before your DEROS you must terminate your phone service on time. If your DEROS is before the 15th

of the month, you must terminate your service by the last day of the month, two months prior (example, if you're leaving April 10, you must terminate service by Feb. 28). If your DEROS is after the 18th of the month, you must terminate service a month beforehand. People who don't meet these deadlines will receive their refund when they get back to the states.

You can make direct overseas calls to the U.S. on Korea TELECOM commercial phones at most installations. For additional information, call 723-3267.



Photo by Spc. Robbie J. Wells

A soldier uses a local telephone to say hello to her family.



Photo by Spc. Robbie J. Wells

Automatic teller machines are conveniently located on military installations throughout the peninsula.

Military banking

Military banking facilities and community banks operate under a contract with the Department of Defense. Hours, services and fees are determined by terms of the contract.

The community banks are located on major military installations, with part-time offices and mobile-bank services on many smaller installations. They provide most of the services of a stateside bank.

Automatic teller machines are available in most areas and offer CIRRUS, AFEN, PLUS, DISCOVER, VISA, MASTERCARD and DINERS CLUB networks for withdrawal from stateside accounts or cash advance on credit cards.

Use of dollars and won

Won is the name of ROK currency. The average exchange rate in 2001 was about 1292 won to the dollar.

Although Americans are permitted to buy won, you are not permitted to buy dollars with won, except under special circumstances. These include reconversion of won upon PCS from Korea, legitimate sale of personal items to a

Korean national, or refund of key money from a landlord. These circumstances must be fully documented. This type of reconversion is handled through your unit finance office and the military banking facilities.

Keep in mind that if you need to buy a large amount of won for key money or other deposits, and you intend to reconvert the won to dollars when you get your refund, you must obtain a receipt from an authorized source as evidence that the won was acquired legitimately.

AAFES services

Larger branches of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service cash personal checks up to \$300 per day for authorized personnel. You may write checks for the amount of purchase plus \$20 at the checkout counter of all facilities.

The exchange cashes money orders and travelers checks. The exchange cashier will also cash government pay checks and some two-party checks with proper identification.

The amount of these checks may be limited on some days because of funds availability. The exchange also sells travelers checks and money orders at selected locations, but only when the military banking facility is closed.

Government Travel Charge Card

The Government Travel Charge Card Program is designed to cover official temporary duty and travel expenses for DoD travelers, military and civilian. The card may be used for lodging, meals, rental car and other incidentals incurred during official TDY/PCS travel. Cash withdrawals (ATM) are authorized solely for the purpose of obtaining funds for official travel to coincide with the TDY dates. Use of the Government Travel Charge Card for any other purpose is strictly prohibited. Cardholders who are on TDY in excess of 30 days are asked to make arrangements with their servicing finance office to submit a partial voucher.

All permanently assigned U.S. military and civilian personnel who are likely to perform TDY/PCS travel are eligible to participate in the Government Travel Card Program. All cardholders must inprocess and outprocess through their Agency Program Coordinator. Applications may be obtained from your organization/unit Agency Program Coordinator or from the MACOM Program Management office located in building 2254, Yongsan, Main Post, Room 216-B, 725- VISA (8472).

The U.S. Air Force Korea Agency Program Coordinator is located in Osan at 784-6394. All cardholders must inprocess/outprocess through their Agency Program Coordinator.

Credit Union

The U.S.A. Federal Credit Union has branch offices on

military posts throughout Korea. The credit union is an American financial institution open to all military, DoD civilians and their family members.

Boy and Girl Scouts

To sign up for Boy Scouts, contact the Far East Council, senior district executive, phone: 736-4860.

For information before you arrive, write: Boy Scouts of America, PSC 450 Box 664, APO AP 96206.

Girl Scout troops, generally from 5-year-old Daisies to Seniors, are found in five locations -- Yongsan, Osan, Pusan, Taegu and Chinhae.

For more information, or to sign up for Girl Scouts, contact the Yongsa Girl Scout Hut at 738-4076.

For information before you arrive in Korea, write: West Pacific Girl Scouts, Korea Region, PSC 450 Box 629, APO AP 96206.



Courtesy photo

Army Community Services

ACS provides services to soldiers and family members from 17 strategically located facilities in Korea.

Five Readiness Areas - Soldier and Family Readiness, Employment Readiness, Financial Readiness, Relocation Readiness, and Mobilization, Deployment, Stability and Support Operations Readiness.

Services include: Information, Referral and Followup; financial planning; relocation counseling/SITES/Lending Closet assistance; identification and prevention of child and spouse abuse, employment assistance; Family Readiness Group (FRG); Army Emergency Relief (AER), Army Family Action Plan (AFAP); Army Family Team Building (AFTB); and volunteer opportunities.

ACS offices in Korea also offer programs designed to ease your cultural adaptation to Korea. This is a very important program if this is your first tour in Korea. Korean language classes, orientation and sightseeing tours of local areas, and a variety of other programs are offered to assist soldiers, DoD civilians and family members in making their stay in Korea a memorable one.

The Air Force provides similar services at their bases through **Family Support Centers**.

Navy bases render the same services through the **Family Service Association**.

United Service Organizations

The USO centers throughout Korea offer recreational activities, sporting events, TV rooms, snack bars and special events. They also offer a range of tours to cultural, historical and other popular places in Korea, and other regions of the Orient.

The USO has facilities in Seoul (724-7003/3301), Pusan (763-3000) and Camp Casey (730-4813), and an Information, Tickets and Tours office at the Moyer Recreation Center at Yongsan (723-4130/7598). USO also operates Information & Referral desks at Incheon International Airport (723-8621) and the Osan MAC terminal (784-3491). For additional information check at their

website: <http://www.uso.org>

e-mail: HanHO@usfk.korea.army.mil

Buddha sitting in the center of the Sokguram Grotto in Kyongju, the old capital city of Shilla Dynasty, built in the mid-eighth century was designated as a world heritage site in Korea in 1995 by the UNESCO.

American Forces Network Korea

AFN Korea provides a variety of quality information and entertainment services to the U.S. Forces Korea community.

AFN's premier services are AFN Korea television, Eagle FM and Thunder AM radio. These media reach a Department of Defense audience of more than 65,000 military, civilians and family members serving throughout the peninsula.

AFN Korea is seen on channel 12 on all Army and Air Force Cable Television systems. The program schedule consists of a mix of popular drama shows, sitcoms, live sports and network newscasts.

In addition to AFN Korea radio and television, many members of the USFK community have access to other services produced by the American Forces Radio and Television Service. AFN News and AFN Sports channel offers news and sports programming, free for all with on-post cable service. Depending on the cable service used, you may have access to other AFN channels, including "Spectrum," which provides movies and syndicated TV shows. Two other entertainment channels, "AFN-Pacific" and "AFN-Atlantic" provide essentially the same programs as AFN, but lack the Korea-specific news and command information offered only by AFN Korea.

World Wide Web/Internet

Service members who have access to the World Wide Web and want the latest information on U.S. Forces Korea can visit the USFK Home Page at www.korea.army.mil. The site contains many links to other military sites within Korea. Some other sites of interest include:

Air Force: www-int.osan.af.mil/7af/

Army: 8tharmy.korea.army.mil/

Navy: www.cnfk.navy.mil/

Marine Corps: www.marfork.usmc.mil/

Pacific Stars & Stripes

The *Pacific Stars & Stripes* is published daily and can be delivered to your quarters for \$16.25 per month on post and \$19 off-post. Papers are also sold from vending machines and AAFES facilities,

military clubs and other locations.

Stars & Stripes carries world and U.S. news from wire services, military news and features from around the world, stock market quotations, sports, commentaries, advice columns and three pages of comics.

Area Newspapers

There are five area newspapers within USFK. 19th TSC publishes *The Southern Star Weekly*, 34th Support Group publishes *Seoul Word*, 2nd ID publishes *Indianhead*, 51st FW at Osan publishes *Mig Alley Flyer*, and 8th FW publishes *Wolf Pack Warrior* at Kunsan AB.

Cable Television

Eighth Army MWR Cable TV (CATV) is an important part of household entertainment for the military community in the Republic of Korea. Diversified programming offers news, sports, movies, music and more.

The Commander's Access Channel provides up-to-date communication with the military community, while 24-hour movie selections are available on HBO, Cinemax and StarWorld. Eighth Army MWR CATV is committed to providing top-notch customer service, and works continuously to ensure that quality television entertainment is available for its customers across the peninsula.

All eligible residents receive the Basic Package at no cost, which includes AFN Korea, CNNI, AFN News and Sports and several Korean stations. Customers may elect to purchase the Premium Package for \$25 a month, which includes over 30 channels including HBO, Discovery Channel, Golf Channel and Nickelodeon to name a few. For additional information call the Eighth Army MWR CATV office at DSN 738-2288.



An important part of your tour in Korea is being able to enjoy your off-duty hours. You and your family will find a variety of recreational activities available at military installations throughout Korea.

The Air Force has recreation centers located in Osan and Kunsan air bases. A few Navy clubs are scattered throughout Korea, and sailors and Marines are welcome to share Army and Air Force recreational facilities.

You will find MWR military clubs, arts & crafts centers, libraries, bowling centers, youth services centers, golf courses and many other recreational activities throughout Korea. Check with your local MWR activity center to find out more information.

Arts and Crafts Centers

MWR Arts and Crafts Centers offer many opportunities for you to learn a new skill.

Photography, ceramics and woodworking are just a few of the activities the arts and crafts center can teach you — or take a special class to learn flower arranging, crochet, stained glass or quilting.

You'll also find instruction in sculpting, leatherworking, painting and calligraphy.

For just plain fun, indulge

yourself with radio-controlled cars or airplanes.

Several arts and crafts centers offer videotaping classes; complete with all the equipment you'll need to produce your own movie about your stay here.

Arts and crafts centers sponsor countrywide competitions in activities like painting and photography.

Visit your local arts and crafts center for information and to sign up for classes.

Dragon Hill Lodge

Processing in and out of Korea can be difficult — especially for those with families. Dragon Hill Lodge, located on Yongsan's South Post, makes it easy for people arriving or preparing to leave Korea.

The hotel provides laundry facilities, restaurants, in-room kitchenettes, TVs/VCRs, video rentals and a shopping arcade.

Guests of this facility find its central location and affordability very convenient.





Photo by Sgt. Eric Foltz

MWR sponsors many sports activities including the Annual Peninsula Army vs Navy Game at Yongsan Army Garrison. The winner gets bragging rights and holds the CINCs Trophy for the entire year.

Recreation Centers/Community Activity Centers

Army and Air Force Recreation Centers play an important role in the overseas community.

The traditional activities are still found at your local recreation center like pool, ping-pong, board games, and card tournaments, but you'll also find the center serving as a central meeting place for community organizations and activities. In addition to all that, you'll find every MWR Recreation Center is on-line, with Internet and e-mail access available.

Many Recreation Centers offer such activities as cyber cafes, computer clubs, total-reality games, fashion shows and other special-interest gatherings.

During the winter months, you can rent skis, boots, ski poles and ice skates for a few dollars a day at many local Recreation Centers/CACs. Check with your local center for a schedule of programs being offered.

Libraries

Members of the military community know that if they want to get ahead in the service, or get a good job after their tour of duty, they had better continue their education.

MWR libraries support those goals, as well as provide recreational reading. There are computers in every library with links to the Internet. You can use them for research or writing term papers. Libraries continue to offer the

latest best sellers, books by your favorite authors from Stephen King to Mother Goose, newspapers and magazines, as well as music, videos and DVDs. And if you can't find what you want in your local library, they'll have it sent from another facility.

Sports

MWR operates extensive military sports programs for units and individuals. Almost every post offers aerobics and modern cardiovascular and strength training equipment.

Eighth United States Army level tournaments are held in team and individual sports including flag football, basketball, volleyball, soccer, slow pitch softball, tennis, golf, racquetball, track and field, powerlifting, bowling, marathon, golf, triathlon, rugby, taekwondo, wrestling, boxing and swimming. Post-level competition is held in several sports. Each year numerous Eighth Army soldiers are selected to go to All-Army competitions.

Auto Crafts Shop

If you have a car in Korea, you'll want to keep it in top shape. The auto crafts shops can help.

Certified mechanics will give you a helping hand in repairing and maintaining your POV, and even in tracking down the parts and tools you need to keep your car on the road, running safely and smoothly.

MWR auto crafts shops are located at Yongsan, Osan, and at Camps Humphreys, Hialeah and Henry.

School Age Services (SAS)

SAS offers before and after school care, “out of school” day care and all day summer recreational programs for children kindergarten - 5th grades. The program provides activities and programs in the computer and home work labs, outdoor and indoor large motor skill development, Boys & Girls Club of America, 4-H clubs, arts & crafts, games, etc. Year round SAS programs are offered at Yongsan and Hannam Village, Camps Walker and Camp Humphreys. Camp Hialeah and Casey residents are provided summer camp activities. Check with your local CYS program office for more information.

Youth Services (YS)

YS offers social, recreational mentoring, intervention services and physical fitness activities for children aged 11 and older. Teen and Middle School programs offer opportunities to participate in Boys & Girls Club activities such as Torch and Keystone Clubs, Leadership Forums, Army Family Action Plan, 4-H programs, Promise Passport, Workforce Prep, and Army and MACOM Teen Leadership Panels. The majority of services are offered at Yongsan, Hannam Village, Camps Walker, Humphreys and Hialeah.

BOSS

BOSS (Better Opportunities for Single and Unaccompanied Soldiers) programs are available at most Army installations. The program is designed to increase communication between military leaders, soldiers and MWR staff for improved quality of life.

A number of special events are held such as: fashion shows, body building competitions, beach parties, and DJ contests. Make your voice count by joining BOSS. Contact your local recreation center staff for details.

Bowling

MWR bowling centers offer the traditional open and league bowling. All the bowling centers are being transformed to Xtreme Bowling - hot music, neon lighting and an atmosphere that’s both hot and cool. Just the ticket for bowlers of all ages.

By day they offer channel-less bowling (also known as bumper bowling) to youth bowlers and traditional bowling to the adult guests. By night it’s an Xtreme experience not to be missed.

Clubs

Military clubs offer you a safe, clean and secure environment to enjoy your off-duty time.

Most clubs feature fine dining, comfortable surroundings and a place to unwind after a hard day’s work.

Stateside and local entertainment is regularly scheduled, and some clubs offer you the chance to “strut your stuff” in music, dance and magic during their amateur nights.

Several branded food concepts have been introduced in clubs. Reggie’s Beverage Company, a micro brew theme that offers a taste American is now in the Camp Stanley and Camp Casey clubs. Another is scheduled for the Main Post Club on Yongsan early next year and a Reggie’s Pub at the Hilltop on Camp Walker. Primo’s Pizza at the Gateway Club is packed with Italian food lovers. Mean Gene’s Burgers, MacGregor’s Market and Hot Stuff Pizza concepts in several clubs are highly patronized. Individual themes such as Sarducchi’s and Harley’s at Camp Humphreys are popular locations for soldiers and their family members.

Child Development Services

Eighth Army Child Development Services (CDS) are available in Taegu and Yongsan. The programs at the CDCs include full-day, part-day and hourly care for children aged six weeks through five years. Hourly childcare service and transportation to the Yongsan CDC is provided to Dragon Hill PCSing patrons.

Registration for child care services is conducted at the Central Registration office in Yongsan and at the CDC in Daegu.

Reunion in Korea

Sponsored by the Korea National Tourism Organization, the Reunion in Korea program enables families of U.S. Forces Korea personnel to visit Korea at a bargain price.

Reunion participants visit Panmunjom, a palace in Seoul, the Korean Folk Village and Kyongju, the old capital city of the Shilla Dynasty.

The reunion cost includes round trip airfare from the United States, five days and four nights of first class hotel accommodations, meals, tours and entertainment.

Guests must spend at least seven days in Korea and may stay up to 58 days if they wish. (Note: 2 days travel time – total 60 days.) Visitors must have a valid U.S. passport, and if they stay more than 15 days, a Korean visa.

The tour program costs about \$800 from Honolulu, \$820 from the west coast, and \$1,000 from other cities. A \$100 deposit is required at the time of application. For an additional fee of \$300, the sponsor may accompany his guests on the five-day tour. Prices are approximate and are subject to change. More than 17,400 family members from the United States have visited Korea under this program since 1981. This has been an overwhelmingly successful and enjoyable program.

Application forms are available at MWR-Tour & Travel Centers. For information, call the Reunion Desk at DSN 723-3474 or Seoul 7913-3474.



Photo by Sgt. Kim, Nam Kwan

Chosun Dynasty royal guard ceremony is reenacted everyday at 2 p.m. at Duck-Soo Palace in downtown Seoul.

Korean History

Archeological findings indicate settlement on the Korean peninsula dates back 600,000 years. According to legend, Korea was founded in 2333 B.C. by a mythical figure named Tangun. The earliest Korean people are believed to have been migrants and invaders from present-day Manchuria, northern China, and Mongolia. They are believed to have been divided into large, extended family groups and most likely practiced Shamanism, a belief system that centers on worship of nature and ancestral spirits that has persisted through the centuries.

From the fourth century A.D. to the mid-seventh century A.D., three kingdoms fought for control of Korea: Koguryo (37 B.C.) in the northern part of the peninsula, Manchuria, Paekche (18 B.C.) in the southwest and Shilla (57 B.C.) in the southeast. As they progressed into statehood, each developed institutions of centralized power and authority.

In 668 A.D., Korea emerged as a unified political entity under the Shilla Kingdom.

The century that followed is usually described as a golden age of artistic and cultural development, as the diminished threat of invasion from the north permitted Korean scholars to travel to China and bring back advanced Chinese culture.

In the mid-eighth century, however, central authority began to decline. The Shilla Kingdom was overturned in 935 A.D. by the dynasty of Koryo, from which the name "Korea" was derived.

In 1390-91 a group of dynasty officials, allied with the newly established Ming Dynasty of China, broke the economic backbone of leading Koryo families by instituting a new land-holding system. This led to the overthrow of Koryo by the Chosun Dynasty in 1392.

The Chosun Dynasty adopted the ancient name of Chosun to claim antiquity for the Korean people, and moved the capital from Kaesong to Seoul.

The most notable intellectual achievement of the dynasty was the development in 1443 of a phonetic writing system known as Hangul. The Chosun Dynasty is regarded as the golden age of Confucianism in Korea, and Confucian political and social ideals became firmly embedded in the country. Rampant factional strife, however, also became deeply rooted in Korean society, especially after the 15th century.

This factionalism persisted in the Korean culture well into the mid-20th century. It divided the Chosun Dynasty's leadership and demoralized its military forces, leaving Korea defenseless against Japanese invasions in the late-16th century.

In November 1905, Korea became a Japanese colony until 1945. Korea was ruled directly from Tokyo through a governor general appointed by the Japanese emperor. Under

Japanese rule, all civil liberties were revoked. The Japanese closed many private schools and established their own public school system, obliterating the Korean language, to assimilate Korean youth into Japanese culture.

Nationalist sentiments were strong among Koreans, and resistance movements were formed among students, factory workers, and urban intellectuals. In 1919 the Japanese police crushed nation-wide demonstrations, in which about 370,000 Koreans participated and about 6,670 were killed.

Korea re-entered the limelight during World War II when its struggle for independence was recognized in the Cairo Declaration issued in December 1943, by the leaders of the United States, Great Britain and China.

On Aug. 24, 1945, President Truman authorized a line of demarcation in Korea to ease the surrender of Japanese forces on the peninsula. Soviet forces accepted the surrender of Japanese troops north of the 38th parallel; and U.S. forces received those located in the south. This area soon became a hardened barrier.

In November 1947, the U.N. adopted a resolution stipulating that elected representatives of the Korean people should establish the conditions for unification and determine their own form of government. The Soviets refused to admit a U.N. commission to observe free elections in the northern half, so elections were held in May 1948, only in the southern half.

Following adoption of a new constitution, Syngman Rhee was elected president on July 20 and the Republic of Korea was established on Aug. 15, 1948. By June 1949, the U.S. withdrew all American troops except for a 500-man military advisory group. The north's leader, Kim Il-sung, seized the opportunity to unite the peninsula under his rule. Kim undertook a direct attack, sending his army south across the 38th parallel on June 25, 1950.

On June 27, 1950, the U.N. Security Council requested members of the U.N. to assist South Korea. The United States, initially responding with air and naval support, had ground forces committed by the end of the month. Eventually, 15 other nations fought under the U.N flag.

In July 1953, an armistice agreement brought the existing uneasy truce. The biggest problem now facing the Republic was reconstruction. The south had survived the war with freedom but little else.

President Rhee was re-elected in 1956 and again in 1960 - an election that was later proven to have been fraudulent. Tension and violence followed. The "April 19 Student Revolution," led to Rhee's resignation.

The second Republic elected Chang Myon prime minister in August 1960.

In May 1961, a military junta headed by Maj. Gen. Park, Chung-hee deposed the Chang government. The

new government established a strong presidency dominating a largely subservient legislature. They also began an unprecedented program of economic development that later catapulted the ROK into the ranks of the developed industrial nations. Park retired from the army and was elected president in October 1963.

President Park was assassinated on October 26, 1979, and emergency martial law was proclaimed. Choi, Kyuhah became the fourth president of the Republic.

Following a period of civil unrest and declaration of total martial law, Gen. Chun, Doo-hwan seized control of the Government in a coup d'etat in May 1980. Chun retired and was elected the president on August 27, 1980.

The fifth five-year development plan, beginning in 1982, was suggested as an ambitious blueprint for a second stage of economic growth. The invitation of the 1986 Asian Games and the 1988 Summer Olympics to Seoul advanced the international status of Korea and elevated the people's pride.

Retired General Roh, Tae-woo was elected president in 1986 through the first direct popular vote in 16 years.

This sixth Republic ended perennial domestic and international controversy over the legitimacy of the Republic of Korea government, and set the stage for the successful hosting of the Seoul Olympics and the effective implementation of diplomacy aimed at opening and expanding ties with the socialist world.

The seventh Republic came into being in February 25, 1993 by president Kim, Young-sam. President Kim's election marked a significant milestone in modern Korean history--the first popularly-elected civilian leader in 32 years.

Korean democracy further matured in 1998, with the election of Kim, Dae-jung, an opposition candidate, in the first successful transition of governmental authority in Korean history.

Etiquette and Dining

Although many of the Koreans with whom you come into contact will be familiar with American habits and mannerisms, the traditional values are still strong.

Koreans shake hands and bow at the same time. The depth of the bow depends on the relative seniority of the two people.

When passing a gift, or any other object to someone, use both hands and bow. The right hand is used to pass the object, while the left is used in support. If the person receiving the gift is younger or lower in stature, passing with one hand is acceptable.

Koreans believe that direct eye contact during conversation shows boldness, and out of politeness they concentrate on the conversation, usually avoiding eye-to-eye contact.

You will see young men walking in the street with



Koreans showed their enthusiasm, during 17th FIFA Korea/Japan World Cup, which their team went to the semi-finals for the first time.

their arms around each other's shoulders and women walking hand-in-hand. This means nothing more than intimacy. Touching close friends while talking to them is perfectly acceptable in Korea. Koreans will touch children to show their warm affection. This is a compliment to let the child know how cute he or she is. Touching other people while passing is mostly understood unless you shove him offensively.

If you attend a wedding or funeral, it's customary to take a white envelope containing a sum of money. Handing cash to someone is considered rude except when paying a shopkeeper for merchandise.

Dinner in a traditional Korean home or restaurant is quite different from American-style dining. Guests sit on cushions around a low table. Many different foods are served, each cut into bite-sized pieces. Each person has his own bowl of rice, but helps himself to other foods directly from the serving dishes. Koreans traditionally use chopsticks and a large-bowled spoon, although today forks are also used.

During the meal, rest your chopsticks and spoon on top of a dish. When you have finished

eating, lay the chopsticks or spoon on the table to indicate that you have completed the meal. Never stick chopsticks or spoon in a bowl of rice; this indicates a worship of the dead.

Your hostess may put your gift aside without opening it in consideration of not embarrassing you at the smallness of the gift. She'll open it if you politely ask her to.

At a restaurant, "Dutch Treat" is not customary -- Koreans just take turns in paying the bills. However, it is becoming more common among the youth. In most hotels, tips are included in the bill.

Be conscious of Korean customs and etiquette, but don't become obsessed with adopting Korean ways.

Korean Culture

Korean culture has blossomed during her long history. Though affected by other Asian cultures, its roots lie deep within the creative Korean psyche, and it has tended to spread rather than be encroached upon. Japan especially has adopted many Korean ideas and customs. The delicate styling and fine craftsmanship of Celadon pottery well illustrates the refinement of the culture, even from as far back as the Three Kingdoms

Period. Korea has also spawned some great inventors; its first printing systems predate Gutenberg's, the famous "Turtle Ship" was the first ever iron-clad battleship, and the Korean alphabet, devised by a group of scholars in the 15th century, was so effective that it remains largely unchanged today. The reasons behind Korea's rapid economic development can be found in this innate creativity.

Three Korean cultural assets to the World Heritage List designated by the UNESCO are:

Chongmyo Shrine, where memorial services to the Kings of the Chosun Dynasty's 500 hundred years of history are held; *The Great Changgyong-Pan* in Haeinsa Temple, which engraved Buddhist scripture on 80,000 pieces of wooden panels; and *Pulguksa Temple* and *Sokkuram Grotto* in Kyongju which was built 1,000 years old.

Korean Names

Koreans place the family name first, and the given personal name second. Family names are traditional clan names and each has a village from which it comes. Thus, there is a difference between Kim who comes from Kyong-ju and Kim who comes from Kimhae.

The five most frequent names are Kim, Pa(r)k, Yi, Choi (Choe) and Oh. Because of the inconsistencies of translating names from Hangul to Roman characters, spellings of these names vary. For instance, x Yi is also spelled in English as Lee and Rhee.

If at all possible, Koreans avoid calling a person directly by his name. Instead they use his title, position, profession, professiontrade,rofession, scholastic rank or some honorific form such as "teacher." Parents often are addressed as the equivalent of , scholastic rank or some honorific form such as "teacher." Parents often are

Things to know while in Korea

Emergency Evacuation

Korea is a potential combat area. Civilians and family members must be prepared to relocate or evacuate to a safe haven in case of hostilities.

Civilian family members and most DoD civilian employees are known as noncombatants and are required to prepare documents and personal items in case of a Noncombatant Evacuation Operation.

During in-processing, each sponsor should receive a copy of USFK Pamphlet 600-300 which contains a list of the documents, clothing, toilet articles and other items that must be taken in case of relocation or evacuation.

If not offered this pamphlet, you should ask your NEO warden, unit orderly room or Army Community Service for a copy.

In case of an actual emergency, the order to relocate or evacuate will be announced on AFN Korea radio and TV, and if the situation permits, each family will be personally notified by their NEO warden. It is imperative that you register each family with your unit or Civilian Personnel Office.

Relocation and evacuation procedures are practiced twice annually. During these exercises, noncombatants are required to bring all documents to the designated processing center for review. This provides an opportunity to ask questions on what would be expected during an actual relocation or evacuation.

Anti-U.S. Protests

Small, but aggressive radical elements gain widespread media coverage of their demonstrations against the United States. These radical groups capitalize on any negative actions which can be used to depict the U.S. and Americans as culprits. Most of the protests are against what is perceived to be unjust U.S. policies and laws, which are interpreted as having a detrimental affect on Korea.

Crimes, such as murder and rape allegedly committed by U.S. personnel, trigger immediate and repeated protests at USFK installations. Even disorderly conduct with or without injuries or property damage can become distorted out of proportion and become a major problem for those U.S. personnel involved.

Although the ROK government and USFK take steps to minimize risk to USFK personnel and property, all personnel and their family members must obey Korean laws and regulations.

Showing respect for the host nation's culture and customs will enhance the chances of a tour of duty in Korea being interesting and enjoyable. Those who are boisterous, arrogant, rude and/or disrespectful can expect to become embroiled in physical altercations resulting in bodily injury and legal complications. The dividends of being friendly are significant and pleasant. The consequences of being an ugly American can be painful, costly and long lasting.

Off Limits Establishments

U.S. officials have placed some restaurants and clubs off limits because of possible food or water contamination, unsanitary restrooms, history of sexually transmitted diseases or availability of drugs. Safety factors such as fire hazards or no clear evacuation route may also cause a business to be placed off limits.

The use of natural bodies of water for swimming is prohibited for military people in Korea, unless approved by commanders. These places are off limits because of possible contaminated water, lack of adequate lifeguards, and/or enforcement of safety rules/procedures.

Embassy Services

The American Embassy is located in downtown Seoul.

The Consular Section provides many services to Americans. The most common services include issuing U.S. passports, registering births, authenticating Korean marriage certificates for Americans, notarizing documents, and issuing immigrant and visitor visas to the United States.

The climate in Korea

are important to the continued success of the ROK/US alliance. We are partners in the defense and security of their nation.

Maintaining that cooperative relationship is essential to our mission. We are all ambassadors of the United States here.

The seasons in Korea change very gradually, and there's seldom any unseasonable weather. Spring time average daily high temperatures reach into the low 70s. Summer is very hot and humid, with the main rainfall occurring during a brief monsoon season. The average daily temperatures are in the 80s.

The fall season starts in mid-

September with a gradual transition from summer to winter in mid-November.

The winters are cold and dry with occasional snow. The coldest temperatures seldom reach zero. The average daily maximum reaches into the mid-30s with occasional daytime temperatures the 40 to 50-degree range.

KOREAN LANGUAGE

Koreans consider their own written language, Hangeul, as their most distinctive trait.

The Korean language, Hangeul-mahl, is closer to Hungarian, Finnish or Turkish than it is to other Oriental languages.

Although they have their own efficient phonetic alphabet invented in the 15th Century, they use Chinese ideographs for some proper names and technical terms.

During your tour in Korea, you'll have ample opportunity to study the Korean language. Many bases have free on-duty or off-duty language classes.

English is taught in Korean schools as a first foreign language. When you talk to Koreans in English, speak slowly to increase your chances of being understood.

If you still have difficulties getting your message across, write it down using short words. If this fails, simply show the phrases written in one of the many available phrase books.

The following Korean phrases may assist you during your visit to Korea.

Good morning/afternoon/evening.

Ahn-nyong ha-seh-yo?

I'm glad to meet you.

Mahn-nah-so bahn-gah-wo-yo.

Good-bye. (by host)

Ahn-nyong-hee kah-seh-yo.

Good-bye. (by guest)

Ahn-nyong-hee kay-seh-yo.

May I have your name?

Ee-ru-mee moo-ot-shim-nee-ka?

How much does it cost? (How much is the fare?)

OI-mah eem-nee-ka?

I'll take this.

Ego ju-seh-yo.

Do you speak English?

Young-oh hahm-nee-ka?

Please take me to the nearest U.S. military installation.

**Kah-kah-woon mee-koon boo-dae-ro
kahp-she-dah.**

What is this?

Ee-gut-sun moo-ot-shim-nee-ka?

Thank you.

Kahm-sa Ham-nee-dah.

You're welcome.

Chon-mahneyo.

What is this place called?

Yo-gee-gah o-deem-nee-ka?

I want to get off in Itaewon.

Itaewon-eh-so neh-ryo ju-seh-yo.

Stop here.

Yo-gee se-wo ju-seh-yo.

Please wait for a moment.

Jahm-kahn-mahn Kee-dah-ree-seh-yo.

Go straight ahead.

Dok-bah-ro kah-seh-yo.

Which way do I need to go?

Onu-jo-ku-ro kahm-nee-ka?

It is very delicious.

Ah-ju mah-sheet-so-yo.

Bathroom/toilet

Yok-shil/Hwa-jahng-shil

What time is it?

Myot she eem-nee-ka?

Please give me a glass of cold water

Naeng-soo hahn-john ju-seh-yo.

Please give me an English menu.

Young-oh menu chom ju-seh-yo.

Western-style room

Cheem-dae bahng

Korean-style room

On-dol bahng

Hot water

On-soo

Cold water

Naeng-soo

Rice

Bahb

Meal

Shik-sah

Bill

Keh-sahn-soh

Reservation

Ye-yahk

Dining room

Shik-dahng

Room charge

Sook-bahng-ryo

It is hot (spicy).

Mae-wo-yo.

It is hot (temperature).

Ttugoh-wo-yo.