



**US Army Corps
of Engineers ®**
Far East District

U.S Army Corps of Engineers Far East District

e-Welcome Packet



Congratulations on your assignment to the Far East Engineer District, the engineering and construction agency of choice in Korea! FED has a long history of overseeing the design and construction of outstanding quality of life and operational facilities for the Department of Defense community in Korea.

1. Duty Station Specific New Comers Information

For information on your new duty station follow one of the links below:

8th Army Korea Wide Newcomers information:

<https://8tharmy.korea.army.mil/site/newcomers/>

USAG Daegu New Comers Information:

<https://home.army.mil/daegu/index.php/my-fort/newcomers>

Kunsan New Comers information

<https://www.kunsan.af.mil/Newcomer/>

<https://www.kunsan.af.mil/Portals/42/Documents/Kunsan%20Newcomers%20Guide-%201Aug17.pdf?ver=2017-08-01-040932-133>

Osan New Comers information

<https://www.osan.af.mil/Newcomers/>

USAG Humphreys New Comers information

<https://home.army.mil/humphreys/index.php/my-usag-humphreys/newcomers>

2. Household Goods Shipment

The Defense Personal Property System is the online system you will use to request and manage your household goods shipment(s). For how-to guides to assist with this application, go to www.move.mil.

As soon as you receive to your permanent change of station, you can start getting your house and family ready. Clean up and get rid of junk. Hold a yard sale or donate serviceable items you no longer need. Gather important family records and put them in a safe place to ensure the movers don't accidentally pack them.

Begin to plan what items will go in unaccompanied baggage (UAB), in your household goods shipment (HHG) and in long-term, Non-Temporary Storage (NTS). Check with your sponsor or overseas housing office to assist in determining what items to ship.

Remember that Korea uses 220V for its electrical service. Transformers can be purchased from the PX or off post for items that only run on the US 110 voltage. Large appliances such as washers and dryers should generally be put into NTS as the housing offices have them for loan. Many landlords may also include these appliances in the basic rent at no additional cost as well.

It normally takes 6 weeks to 3 months for your HHG to arrive and get through customs, depending on where you are shipping from. There is a lending closet to provide kitchen essentials prior to your household goods arriving but that does not include linens or pillows. Pack those in your UAB. Check with your sponsor on the availability of items at your duty stations lending closet as well as what furniture can be checked out for the duration of your tour and furniture that can be loaned short term until your HHG arrive.

For details, Website: <https://8tharmy.korea.army.mil/site/newcomers/planning-household-goods.asp>.

3. Pets

Traveling overseas with a pet requires additional planning and preparation. We all love our pets like family, but remember that bringing pets to South Korea is a privilege, not an entitlement. As such, the Contract Travel Office (CTO), does not book pet flights, but they can book you and family on a pet-friendly flight with the CTO contracted airline Patriot Express or other airline if authorize to travel commercially. Commercial airline carriers may have specific pet policies or limitations that further restrict pet travel. Traveling with pets requires a lot of pre-planning. Do not forget to connect with your sponsors and read all the associated material related to travel and South Korean Requirements. Just remember that everyone's experience traveling with pets is different and pre-planning as far in advance as possible will pay off.

One of the first things you will want to check is how long it will take to get your pets FAVN results. Some employees have found their testing sites to have a backlog and had to wait 45 days or more. Animals without a passing FAVN result will be placed in quarantine upon arrival to Korea. See below section on pet quarantine for additional information.

Website: https://www.korea.amedd.army.mil/PCSing_with_Pets.html.

Commercial Airline Transport

If flying commercially, contact the airline prior to purchasing tickets to ensure pets will actually be able to fly on the day of travel (e.g. ask about the airline's regulations regarding pets on flights greater than 12 hours, outdoor temperature restrictions on travel date, pet flying in-cabin, etc.)

Military Transport

Effective September 2014, cats and dogs leaving Korea can fly aboard Patriot Express. Discuss pet travel with the Travel Office when making arrangements. If you are traveling by Patriot Express please reference the Facebook page “Osan Passenger Terminal”. Along the left hand side under photos, at the bottom of the photo page, is a section on pet travel. Pets may not be allowed to accompany the military member on the Military Processing transportation bus your sponsor will need to verify this when making travel arrangements for you to your duty station if public transportation was intended to be used.

Pet Quarantine

Whether your pet travels accompanied or unaccompanied, if you arrive after hours or during the weekend, your pet will be kept at the airport due to customs duty hours. If possible pets should arrive during weekday/daytime hours to prevent unnecessary stress for the pet or owner.

The Quarantine Inspection Agency determines if your pet meets all requirements for entry into Korea. To help avoid quarantine, be sure you have a valid, original rabies certificate, original, current, passing FAVN results; and completed (no empty fields) health certificate (APHIS form 7001 and DD209). The pet must be registered on post as soon as it is released from quarantine.

If you encounter problems at Incheon airport, contact the USFK Incheon Customs Office at the number below.

Contact information: DSN 723-7561 /05033237561, 01037085214 (After duty hours, weekends, and holidays) Hours: Monday-Friday 0800-1700.

Dog Restrictions

No specific dog restrictions are listed entering Korea; however, airlines have specific guidelines for transporting certain breeds.

4. Vehicles

You will be authorized on your PCS Orders to ship one privately owned vehicle (POV) at government expense. To ship your vehicle overseas, you will need to drop off your vehicle at a Vehicle Processing Center (VPC).

If possible, we recommend shipping your car as early as possible. Depending on the time of year and especially during high PCS season it can take 2 months more or more for your vehicle to arrive. Once you arrive in Korea you must contact the Vehicle Processing Center (VPC) to arrange pick up of POVs.

To make appointments, learn about shipping, or to track your POV shipment, visit the official <https://www.pcsmypov.com>.

5. Driver's License

All SOFA status USFK military personnel, USFK civilian appropriated and non-appropriated employees, USFK technical representatives, and family members of the aforementioned personnel must possess a USFK Form 134EK (USFK Motor Vehicle Operator's Permit) to drive POVs on U.S. installations and Korean roadways. Your USFK Motor Vehicle Operator's Permit is only valid as long as you maintain a valid US Drivers License or International Drivers Permit.

Prior to driving in Korea you will need to have a valid state side driver's license and pass the USFK Drivers test. It is important to make sure that your US driver's license is current and will remain current for your entire tour in Korea (and a few months beyond). Requirements to renew your US driver's license vary from state to state and there are harsh penalties for driving in Korea with an expired license.

More Information:

[USFK Pam 385-2, Guide to Safe Driving in Korea \(Pdf\)](#)

[USFK 190-1, Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision \(Pdf\)](#)

6. Passports, SOFA Stamp & A-3 Visa

The US government will provide a no-fee passport to all eligible command sponsored family members. Contact your local personnel office for the proper forms and information. The processing time is generally between six and eight weeks, so begin the process as soon as orders for command sponsorship are approved. Do not depart your losing installation without receiving the no-fee passport.

When you arrive you will get a 90 day tourist visa stamp in your passport. All family members, civilians, and even newborns must obtain an A-3 visa (which allows for multiple entries into Korea) and SOFA stamp within 90 days upon arrival. Your sponsor can help you with the process of getting your SOFA visa once you arrive at your duty station.

Website: <https://8tharmy.korea.army.mil/site/newcomers/passports-visa.asp>.

7. Schools

Families with school-age children relocating to Korea receive a world-class education. From the earliest grade levels through high school graduation, students enrolled at DoDEA Korea schools take part in an exciting blend of academic, social, cultural, and extra-curricular experiences that prepare them for college and career success.

Top 3 things that families need to do before they PCS:

- Make sure all immunizations are up to date and recorded.
- Collect all school records and any other pertinent information.
- If your child has an IEP or a 504 plan, please ensure you bring that to the school.

There are Youth Sponsorship Programs that are coordinated for through the various DODEA schools in addition to Child and Youth Services (CYS) resources. If you are interested in Student to Student (S2S) Programs during school year, for middle school (6th-8th grade) and high school (9th-12th grade) students, you can find additional information on the specific school website. To request a sponsor, visit the School Liaison Officer (SLO) page and scroll down to Youth Sponsorship and Transition Support.

Parents should review and complete preparations outlined on the DoDEA Pacific West District website, <https://www.dodea.edu/Pacific/west/registration.cfm>, as it provides guidance on everything you will need to know and do upon arrival.

Osan AB

Osan Air Base is home to Osan American Elementary School and Osan Middle High School. If you are PCSing to Osan and bringing your family, make sure to register your child for school before you arrive.

Osan American Elementary School: <https://www.dodea.edu/OsanES/index.cfm>.

Osan American Middle High School: <https://www.dodea.edu/OsanMHS/index.cfm>.

USAG Humphreys

The School Liaison Office (SLO) assists Humphrey's families living on and off post. The SLO can assist you in locating points of contact in the schools and makes appropriate referrals. For information call the Camp Humphreys School Liaison Office at (DSN) 315-757-2241. Visit the School website:

School Support Services: <https://humphreys.armymwr.com/programs/school-support-services>.

Central Elementary School: <http://www.dodea.edu/HumphreysCentralES/index.cfm>.

West Elementary School: <https://www.dodea.edu/HumphreysWestES/index.cfm>.

Middle School: <http://www.dodea.edu/HumphreysMS/index.cfm>.

High School: <http://www.dodea.edu/HumphreysHS/index.cfm>.

USAG Daegu

Here in Daegu we have one Department of Defense Activity (DODEA) Elementary School and one DODEA combined Middle High School. These schools are located on post (one on Camp George and one on Camp Walker). Students may walk to school, be driven, or take DODEA transportation (provided to/from certain areas only). Please call the Daegu transportation office at 768-6301/7722 or follow the link on the school websites to learn more about the authorized commuting zones.

Daegu Elementary School: <https://www.dodea.edu/DaeguES/index.cfm>.

Daegu Middle High School: <https://www.dodea.edu/DaeguMHS/index.cfm>.

8. Arrival to Korea (Incheon International Arrival)

There are four main stages to getting through the airport and the process can last an hour or more. (See Pets Section for information)

1. The first stage is travelling from the international gate to the main terminal via the train shuttle.
2. The second stage is Korean Immigration. You will need the Customs Declaration and Arrival Card you filled out on the plane as well as your passport.
3. The third stage is the customs area, but you will need to get your luggage first.
4. The four stage is going through the automatic doors to the main terminal to meet those there to greet you or to make your way over to the Military Reception Desk to arrange transportation. The Military Reception Desk are located:

Terminal 1: In vicinity of Exit 1.

Terminal 2: you will find uniformed 19th HRC personnel at Exit 6 next to the 7/11.

This website provides very detailed information on what you need to do upon arrival at your destination airport. <https://8tharmy.korea.army.mil/site/newcomers/arrival-customs.asp>.

9. Arrival to Korea (Osan Airbase Arrival)

Osan AB is a smaller facility and somewhat easier than landing at Incheon. Have your passport, military orders, and customs declaration ready, and you should move quickly from the area where you pick up your baggage through immigration and customs. You are required to follow the same customs regulations as stated above.

This website provides very detailed information on what you need to do upon arrival at your destination airport. <https://8tharmy.korea.army.mil/site/newcomers/arrival-customs.asp>.

10. Base Lodging or Inns

Personnel on official orders only can make reservations online for a standard room by visiting the lodging site. For suites, pet rooms or special request, contact the lodging office directly for accurate reservation in webpage.

Osan AB

<http://af.dodlodging.net/property/Osan-AB-Korea>

Camp Humphreys

<http://army.dodlodging.net/property/Camp-Humphreys>

Kunsan AB

<http://af.dodlodging.net/propertys/Kunsan-AB-Korea>

USAG Daegu

<http://army.dodlodging.net/propertys/Camp-Walker--Camp-Henry-Lodging>

11. Housing

Moving to a new country can often be confusing and stressful; however, it can also be exciting. Living off base provides members and families the chance to experience a new culture and make friends with their host country neighbors. From houses to high rise living Korea has a wide variety of accommodations to choose from. The local housing office where you will be stationed will assist you every step of the way to help you find your new home in the local community. For more information on you can check out the official websites for each housing office as follows:

USAG Daegu

<https://home.army.mil/daegu/index.php/about/Garrison/directorate-public-works/housing-services-office>

Osan AB

<https://www.housing.af.mil/Home/Units/Osan/>

USAG Humphreys

<https://home.army.mil/humphreys/index.php/about/Garrison/directorate-public-works/humphreys-housing-services-office>

Kunsan AB

<https://www.housing.af.mil/Home/Units/Kunsan/>

12. Cell Phones, Keeping in Touch & Dialing Instructions

CELL PHONES:

International plans from US Cell Phone provider may not be practical while stationed in Korea. Many current cellular or smart phones from the US, if unlocked, will work on a Korea Cellular network. There are several ways to acquire a local Korean SIM card. We highly recommend going through the AAFES PX mobile phone service desk or the USO Cellular Service Kiosk depending on your final destination installation.

In addition many Korean cell phone provider's offer portable pocket wifi devices,

commonly known as eggs. While you will not have a phone number, this device fits in your pocket and can connect multiple cell phones, tablets, computers, etc with high speed 4G or 5G networks while on the go.

For a phone to work in Korea, it needs to satisfy these requirements:

- 1) Be unlocked – some most companies sell phones with software that prevents them from recognizing another company’s SIM card. Contact your cellular network provider before you leave the US to determine if you phone is unlocked and request the unlock if it is locked.
- 2) Have a SIM card slot – In order for your phone to work in Korea your phone will need a SIM card slot. Certain US and Canadian providers, running CDMA networks, sell unique versions of certain phones that have no SIM card slot to prevent customers from taking their phones to other networks.
- 3) Support LTE data (latest generation smart phones) that operates on bands 3, 8, and 26. If your phone does not support one of these bands, it should still connect at 3G speeds using the WCDMA 2100 MHz frequency.
- 4) Support WCDMA 2100 MHz frequencies – this is most important, as this is the frequency band that most Korean networks run their 3G networks on; this capability is inherent to the phone.

Keeping in touch abroad:

A local Korean cell number is recommended for communicating within South Korea, as generally international plans are not practical. Service members and their families should explore the variety of other options to communicate abroad or back to the US. Many employees and family members abroad find it convenient to utilize third party applications for audio or video chat functions. Below is a list of commonly used applications your family can explore to determine what will work best for your situation in order to stay in touch and communicate:

- KakaoTalk – text, video and call (this app is highly recommended as it’s the most commonly used messaging service in Korea)
- Skype – text, call, video chat
- Facetime – video chat (Apple only)
- Facebook messenger – text, call, video
- Viber – text, call
- WhatsApp – text, call, video

This list is not all-inclusive and new applications are available every day. You should communicate with your sponsor for guidance on the latest applications Families are using to stay connected abroad.

13. Noncombatant Evacuation

While Korea is a relatively safe location it is important that noncombatants be prepared to evacuate, The Noncombatant exercise (NEO) is part of your life while assigned to Korea. While the process is led by the Department of State/US Embassy, the military has a major role in assisting. The goal is to relocate families and non-emergency essential personnel out of harm's way to a safe haven or repatriate them to the United States. Preparation is key to NEO's success. Therefore, we encourage all noncombatants to expect and prepare for uncomfortable conditions, be ready to move quickly, and assist our personnel by calmly following instructions. We encourage everyone to participate in COURAGEOUS CHANNEL exercises – not only so they can learn what to expect, but to help train our people. Contact your unit NEO Warden upon arrival for further information.

Website:

<https://8tharmy.korea.army.mil/site/families/neo.asp>

<https://8tharmy.korea.army.mil/19esc/neo/>

14. Tips for Living in Korea

Korean Hospitals and International Clinics:

Most of the major Korean hospitals have an international clinic with English speaking staff that will assist you. Many of these hospitals have interpreters during normal business hours. When visiting one of the Korean hospitals, you can expect a modern design and atmosphere, and the same up to date technology as you would expect in the United States. Most of the signs are in Hangul, the Korean language, with English translation to make it easier for their international visitors to navigate through their hospital. Many of the staff speak some English, and understand English as long as you speak slowly and clearly. They will make every effort to understand your needs and concerns while attending to your care. Your health and well-being is their priority, and they want your stay at their hospital to be as comfortable as possible. If you need assistance, the international clinic will be glad to help and make sure that communication is clear, minimizing unneeded stress.

Official Korean Tourism Page English site:

Here you kind find information on all sorts of festivals, cultural sites, tours, activities, etc.

<http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/index.kto#>

Movie Tickets:

Each Installation also has its own movie theater on post managed AAFES. They will show the biggest hit movies from the states. However runs may be limited. To get the most up to date movie listings go to <https://www.aafes.com/exchange-stores/Movie-Guide/> and click on the installation movie theater you want to check the schedule of.

In addition Korea has many state of the art movie theaters offering 2D, 3D, IMAX, and 4d Movies. Korea gets most of the major blockbuster movies we get in the US as well as many international and local Korean films as well. <http://cineinkorea.com> is an easy way to book tickets advance or just to check out movie times and locations in an English website. If you prefer you can also buy tickets directly at the movie theater with no issues.

Subway: Korea's large cities have excellent subway systems. They may seem quite confusing at first but most installations offer a new comers subway orientation that teaches you everything you need to know about how to use the systems. There are many great apps that can be used to show you how to get around the different subway systems. Searching your App Store for "Korea Subway" will bring many results for various apps. Download a couple of them and see which one you like best.

Other cool things to do: 50 beautiful places to visit in South Korea at <http://travel.cnn.com/seoul/visit/50-beautiful-places-visit-korea-873093>

Other PCS Resources:

<https://8tharmy.korea.army.mil/site/newcomers/pcs-resources.asp>

Train Tickets: Korea has an amazing high speed rail system to get you anywhere in the country quickly and easily. There are two major rail companies here, the first being Korail which runs both slow lines with many stops as well as the bullet train the KTX which only hits major cities.

The other company is Supreme Rail, better known as the SRT, which only operates bullet trains.

Both companies run similar routes and sometimes share lines and stops. However they both may have unique stops in different parts of major cities. These bullet trains can get you from Busan to Seoul, literally opposite ends of the country, in as little as 2 hours 45 minutes for around ₩50,000 (about \$45 US) for an adult.

Korail: <http://www.letskorail.com/ebizbf/EbizBfTicketSearch.do>

SRT: <https://etk.srail.co.kr/main.do?language=EN>

Recreation Activities Such As Camping, Biking, Fishing and other: Many Installations have MWR facilities that offer rentals for camping equipment and other recreation equipment such as skis, bicycles, etc. Check with your sponsor about what might be available at your new duty station. To find out information about national parks check out this site from the Korean National Park Service <http://english.knps.or.kr/>. For information about other recreation activities such as skiing, fishing, etc. you can check out the official Korean tourism webpage here <http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/index.kto#>.

Other cool things to do: 50 beautiful places to visit in South Korea at

<http://travel.cnn.com/seoul/visit/50-beautiful-places-visit-korea-873093>

Other PCS Resources: <https://8tharmy.korea.army.mil/site/newcomers/pcs-resources.asp>

15. Army Community Service:

Army Community Service (ACS) provides family assistance and support services to military, DOD civilians, contractors and their family members. The following is a list of some of the services provided by ACS.

Army Emergency Relief (AER)

AER offers financial assistance for rent, food, utilities, emergency travel expenses, and other verified emergencies. AER also provides scholarships for college students and spouses.

Mobilization and Deployment

ACS provides, upon request, Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) briefings to units and Family Readiness Groups. ACS coordinates support for families with gaining safe haven areas in accordance with the NEO plan.

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)

ACS offers EFMP information and referral, advocacy, support group meetings, respite care information, help in and out processing and command sponsorship information.

Family Advocacy Program (FAP)

The Family Advocacy Program is designed to promote effective family functioning through support programs such as marriage, and parenting classes, stress management, counseling, referral, and crisis intervention.

Financial Readiness

ACS offers consumer affairs assistance, information and advocacy, financial counseling and budgeting assistance, checkbook management, and personal financial management classes. Group counseling classes are available.

Relocation Readiness Program: ACS provides relocation information to military personnel, civilians, and families. Programs include newcomer orientation, Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) stamp assistance, Basic Korean Classes, SMART Start Tour, The Ville Tour and so much more. The lending closet provides small kitchen appliances and cooking items for a 30 day temporary loan. A copy of orders is required to borrow all items.

Victim Advocate/Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP)

ACS provides information and/or briefings on domestic and child abuse and the prevention

of sexual harassment.

Contact information: Sexual Assault Hotline 763-5700 On Post Dial 158

Victim Advocate 01086368435 cell off post Dial 753-8435/8444

Employment Program: ACS offers assistance with resume writing, employment opportunities and job preparation.

Employment websites: <https://www.usajobs.gov/>

Volunteer Program

Interested parties are directed to volunteer opportunities across the installation and provides information on registering in the Volunteer Management Information System (VMIS).