



News for U.S. Military Widows in Korea

RAO Vacation and TDY: The RAO will be closed for summer vacation from July 21 until August 1. Then I will be TDY from August 2 until August 10. During this time, if you have an emergency, please call 017-477-1441.

Change to September Seoul Visit Schedule: Chusok (Korean Thanksgiving) this year starts on September 10. Because of the heavy travel starting the day(s) before the holiday, the scheduled visit to Yongsan Army Garrison on the second Tuesday is changed from September 9 to September 16.

Medical Insurance: Military hospitals do not have all the types of care that we need. Sometimes, they have to send us to Korean hospitals to get our problems taken care of. There are some important things you need to know about using Korean hospitals.

When you are sent to a Korean hospital, you must pay all the costs yourself, and then file a claim with the TRICARE office. This way, you will get back 75% of the money you spent. But you must be eligible for TRICARE, and you must be sent to the Korean hospital by your TRICARE office.

If you are under age 65, you automatically have TRICARE for free. You have nothing to worry about until you reach age 65.

When you reach age 65, the free TRICARE stops. Then you have to enroll in Medicare Part B, which is the Social Security medical insurance. Once you are enrolled in Medicare Part B, you are automatically covered by TRICARE for Life. Medicare Part B costs \$57.40 per month in 2003. If you are age 65 or over and you have a Medicare card that shows only Medicare Part A, you do not have TRICARE for Life. You must have Medicare Part B to have TRICARE for Life.

If you do not sign up for Medicare Part B at age 65 and sign up when you are older, you will have to pay an extra 10% per year for each year past age 65.

If you have the Korean medical insurance and TRICARE, then the Korean medical insurance will pay up to 60% of your costs and TRICARE will pay up to 40%, so your share will be very low or nothing. If you are age 65 or more and you do not have TRICARE for Life, then you will have to pay for any costs not covered by the Korean medical insurance.

For those who are receiving Social Security, the Medicare cost can be taken out of your monthly Social Security benefit. If you are not receiving Social Security, then you will have to send Medicare payments to the Medicare office in the U.S.

Personal Identification Number: All the people receiving medical care at a military hospital must now have their own individual identification number. For many people, this is the Social Security number. Do you have a Social Security number? Check your ID card.

- If the first three digits of number above your signature starts with 001 up to 733, that's a Social Security number.
- If the number starts with 8 and ends with D, then that's a temporary number (TIN) assigned by the ID office.
- If the number is 000-00-0000, that's not a valid number and must be changed.

Those people with a Social Security number don't have to do anything.

For people who have a number starting with 8 or with 000, then you have to get a number assigned by the ID card office and get a new ID card.

Many of the widows without a Social Security number have received an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). This is a number starting with 9. You will be able to use this number on your ID card, but not until October. If the number on your ID card starts with 8 and you have an ITIN starting with 9, then you should go to the ID card office with your ITIN card. They may be able to keep using the 8 number until October, and then give you a new card with the ITIN on it.

For those who do not have a Social Security number or ITIN, the ID card office will assign a new number, called a Foreign Identification Number (FIN).

I know this is confusing. If you are contacted by your ID card office and don't know what to do, please call the RAO at 031-661-1441 and I'll try to help, but don't forget that I'll be gone from July 21 until August 10.

Help in Your Area: The Retiree Activities Office has some retired people in areas around Korea to help retirees and widows. Here are the cities where these people are located, together with the name and phone number of the person in each area.

Chunchon – Camp Page
Bob Fuentes, Fire Dept
Ph: DSN 721-5827, Comm 033-259-5827
E-mail: FuentesR@usfk.korea.army.mil

Kunsan – Kunsan Air Base
Bob Dunn, Commissary
DSN: 782-5143, Comm 063-470-5143
Fax: 782-5166
E-mail: **rok_diamond@yahoo.com**

Pusan – Camp Hialeah
George Clinger, ACS
Ph: DSN 763-7479, Comm 051-801-7479
Fax: 763-3904
E-mail: **ClingerG@usfk.korea.army.mil**

Pyongtaek-Songtan – Osan Air Base
Jack Terwiel, RAO
Ph: 784-1441, Comm 031-661-1441
Fax: 784-3894
E-mail: **retact@osan.af.mil**

Seoul – Yongsan Army Garrison
Richard Boyce, ACS Bldg 4106, AER
Ph: DSN 738-4655, Comm 02-7918-4655
Fax: 738-4490
E-mail: **BoyceR@usfk.korea.army.mil**

Taegu – Camp Henry
Cris Romero, USA Federal Credit Union
Ph: DSN 768-7436, Comm 053-470-7436
Fax: 768-6503
E-mail: **Romec53@hotmail.com**

Tongduchon – Camp Casey
Wnd Thomas, TSAK
DSN: 730-4128, Comm 031-869-4128
Fax: 730-4219
E-mail: **ThomasWA@usfk.korea.army.mil**

Uijongbu – Camp Red Cloud
Wnd Thomas (see above for Tongduchon)

Waegwan – Camp Carroll
Lonnie Jabour
Ph: DSN 765-8914, Comm 054-970-8914
Fax: 765-8549
E-mail: **JabourL@usfk.korea.army.mil**

Wonju – Camp Long
Chris Fletcher
Ph: DSN 721-2250, Comm 033-738-2250
E-mail: FletcherC@usfk.korea.army.mil

*Have a safe and enjoyable summer
Jack Terwiel*

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