



News for U.S. Military Widows in Korea

1. Happy New Year

2. Retiree Activities Office Reopens

Jack Terwiel will be providing service on Osan Air Base starting on Feb 3. He will be operating at a desk in Building 936, the Personnel building where the ID Card Section and Ration Card Section are located. To go to Jack's desk, go in the building and turn left. Go to the last door on the right side and when you go in, Jack's desk is at the right just inside the door.

He will be in the RAO office on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1000-1400. Jack's on-base telephone number is 031-661-1441 (784-1441 from on base).

He will continue to work in the downtown Military Retiree Assistance Office on Monday-Wednesday-Friday, 0900-1500.

3. VA Refund to Widows

When a military retiree was receiving VA disability pay and he died, the VA took back the last check for the month the retiree died. The VA has discovered that this was a mistake and will send the widow the VA disability payment for the month in which her husband died. If you are eligible, you should have already received the payment from the VA.

This is only for the widows whose husbands were receiving VA disability pay and who died after Dec 31, 1996.

4. U.S. Income Tax

Most widows living in Korea who are not U.S. citizens are not required to pay U.S. income tax. Korean widows who receive the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) are exempt from U.S. income tax. Widows who receive money from the VA do not have to pay tax on that income. For widows who are Korean citizens living in Korea and who receive Social Security, U.S. income tax is automatically withheld before they receive it and it is not refundable.

Widows who are U.S. citizens will pay tax on the benefits they receive. In most cases, they can receive assistance from the military Tax Center on most installations in Korea. For widows with complex tax problems, the Military Retiree Assistance Office can help.

NOTE: The information presented in the English version of the newsletter may not match the Korean version due to editorial differences with the translator (my wife).

Jack