

THE SEOUL SURVIVOR

2012-2013

26th edition



AMERICAN FORCES' SPOUSES' CLUB

THE SEOUL SURVIVOR

2012 - 2013



A publication of the

American Forces Spouses Club

Twenty-sixth Edition 2012-2013

May not be reprinted without the permission of:

American Forces' Spouses' Club

PSC 450, Box 9, APO, AP 96206-0009

<http://americanforcesspousesclubkorea.weebly.com/>

2011-2012 AFSC BOARD MEMBERS

2011-2012 Honorary Presidents

Senior Honorary President	Dee Thurman
Honorary President	Cheryl Johnson
Honorary President	Alisa Mahoney

2011-2012 Advisors

AFSC Advisor	Anne Macdonald
Advisor American Welfare Projects	Lisa Winders
Advisor Korean Welfare Projects	Mary Regner
Advisor Chosun Operational Board	Greg Akin
Advisor Scholarship	Tina Harris

2011-2012 Executive Board Members

President	Rebecca Hayes
1st Vice President	Debbie McNutt
2nd Vice President	Dana Repak
Operations Treasurer	Marli Stephans
Welfare Treasurer	Susy Vallifucco
Secretary	Debra Shaub/Julie Harris
Parliamentarian	Staci Boschert
Chosun Operations Officer	Joy Dyer
Chosun Financial Analyst	Karen Conboy

2011-2012 Appointed Chairpersons

Activities	Shike Zemlin
American Welfare Projects	Mischa Moreau
Chosun Chatter	Anja Grenstad
Korean Welfare Projects	Haing J. Choi
Membership	Fran Williams
Reservations	Debbie Rodriguez
Volunteer Coordinator	RuthAnn Porter

Ways & Means
Historian
Hospitality
Scholarships
Seoul Survivor
Webmaster

Pamela McIntyre
Victoria Burgamy
Kate Bialke
Kimberly Dobbs
Mary Soergel
Kathleen Kaser/TracyCody

CHOSUN GIFT SHOP (CGS) BOARD MEMBERS

Senior Honorary President
Honorary President
Honorary President
AFSC Advisor
AFSC President
CGS Advisor
Manager
CGS Buying Manager
CGS Operations Officer
CGS Asst Operations Officer
Volunteer Coordinator
Financial Analyst
Parliamentarian
AFSC Welfare Treasurer

Dee Thurman
Cheryl Johnson
Alisa Mahoney
Anne Macdonald
Rebecca Hayes
Greg Akin
Dawn Gibbons
Diane Joyner
Joy Dyer
Karen Grady
Karen Grady
Karen Conboy
Petra Hebert
Susy Vallifuoco

SEOUL SURVIVOR EDITORS

1984 - Judy Bridenbaugh
1985 - Helen Adams
1986 - Linda Melvin
1987 - Monte Hess
1988 - Delores Stetson
1989 - Bobbye Geary
1990 - Jane Earles
1991 - Marianne Pastor
1992 - Pat Manzy
1993 - Lonny Rogers
1994 - Janet Lee
1995/96/97 - Jennifer Musser

1998 - Donna Repaty
1999 - Carolyn I.J. Mcinnis
2000 - Judy Hunter, Temple Wood
2001/2 - Lisa Wood
2003/4 - Suzette Mackenzie
2004/5 - Heather Applegate
2006/7 - Christine Chae
2008/9 - Cathi Ferri
2009/10 - Debora Rinehart
2010/11 - Tina Fox
2011/12 - Miriam Walker
2012/13 - Mary Soergel

2012-2013 SEOUL SURVIVOR COMMITTEE

Tracy Cody
Karen Conboy
Lynae Cox
Kimberly Dobbs
Cameron Gonzales
Emily Grace
Karen Grady
Kimberly Harwood
Sookhee Hong
Elisa Ketter
Anne Macdonald
Pamela McIntyre
Sue Ping
Lisa Winders

**Cover pictures: Temple and Masks by Victoria Burgamy,
Peppers by Claire Wentzel
Cover design by Cecilia Lysne and Younie Park**

This publication was originally conceived, written and compiled by Judy Bridenbaugh in an attempt to ease the frustration experienced by military members and their families when moving to a new location, especially, a foreign country. Input for yearly issues has been gathered from the best available sources at the time of publication. While every attempt has been made to provide the most accurate and up to date information, inevitably some information will have changed since this book was published. If you do note incorrect or outdated information, please contact the American Forces Spouses Club. The future editor will gladly appreciate any updates.

afscseoul survivor@yahoo.com

EDITOR'S NOTE

Landing in Seoul, South Korea, was both an adventure and a shock for me. While I had done as much research as I possibly could, I was not prepared for the culture shock I felt upon landing. Much of that had to do with the extremely long travel day, the crowd, and not knowing where to go after we landed. Once I noticed that most Korean signs included an English version and there were people speaking English and trying to guide us, I began to relax and figure things out. Korea was pleasantly more modern and westernized than I could have ever imagined. The Koreans have worked diligently over the past 60 years to rebuild their country, forging ahead economically, technologically, and socially. I am pleased to say I've made friends with several Koreans and found Seoul to be an international melting pot. There are all kinds of wonderful people and opportunities around every corner. I challenge you to step out and try new things, meet new people, and go new places. There is something for everyone, and there are people open to sharing their knowledge and talent.

I want to thank my wonderful Seoul Survivor Committee, who volunteered a lot of time and effort to make needed changes and additions to this 26th edition. Their insight and dedication to this project shows in the final product. We have collectively put in hundreds of volunteer hours to ensure that you have the best possible guidebook. Oriental Press has dedicated countless hours to our effort, provided valuable insight and assistance, and printed this edition of the Seoul Survivor without any charge to the American Forces Spouses Club. The Seoul Survivor is our gift to those coming to the Republic of Korea. We have attempted to include the most current information necessary to assist you with finding resources, getting situated, and starting on your own adventure here in The Land of the Morning Calm.

Mary Soergel
2012-2013 Editor

MARY'S TOP 10 TIDBITS

10. Driving in Seoul is not as bad as you'd think. Be assertive, but drive defensively. You will be at least partially responsible for any accident that occurs regardless of fault. Do not leave the scene without the presence of the USFK Military Police. Carry those phone numbers with your drivers license.

9. A GPS is a must if you want to drive outside of post and get back home without a struggle, should you get lost. Subway stops are posted on the road signs and are a good way to identify locations.

8. Shopping in big crowds can be overwhelming. You need to look where you are going. You may be bumped or elbowed. Koreans are used to less personal space.

7. Get a refillable T-Money Card for the subway, bus, or taxi. They come in the traditional credit card size or a miniature size for your key ring or cell phone. They save time and money.

6. Think about getting business cards as soon as you get here. Networking is huge, and you meet people everywhere you go. Having the cards available is so convenient in making those important connections.

5. South Korea is hosting the 2018 Winter Olympics; they are in a construction mode. South Korea has a long history with reconstruction and service vehicles are given priority. Don't be too surprised whether driving or walking if trucks come rumbling up behind you at very high speeds.

4. Moped and motorcycle delivery drivers are paid to deliver on time. The drivers weave in and out of traffic. They go through stop lights and travel on sidewalks at times. This can be frustrating, but that is the way of life here. Don't waste time getting upset.

3. Think very carefully about what kind of cell phone system you want to buy into. There are inexpensive phones, prepaid phone cards, and a wide variety of monthly plans. The plans are separate and each time you change a plan, you are charged new fees and activations.

2. The most utilized form of online communication here at USFK is Facebook. I highly suggest you set up an account so that you can access the most current and up-to-date information. It may not be your most preferred method, but it is what has been embraced here. Other methods are available (email and websites), but it will take more effort on your part.

1. Make a friend; be a friend! I can't tell you how wonderful and important it is to make new friends here so far from home. Get involved and welcome new people! We are a small bit of this huge population. You will find most people very genuine and helpful. Enjoy!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Quick References	9
Helpful Websites	10
American Forces Spouses Club	13
History of the Chosun Gift Shop	15
History of U.S. Forces at Yongsan	17
Korea	20
Facts about South Korea	22
Korean National and Religious Holidays	23
The Korean Spoken and Written Language	26
Useful Korean Phrases	27
Korean Culture and Customs	31
Korean Non-Verbal Behaviors and Etiquette	31
Traditional Korean Meals	33
Planning Your PCS	37
What to Do and When to Do It	37
Details, Details, Details!	37
What to Bring	43
Travel Day	49
Touch Down!	50
Incheon International Arrival	51
In-Processing	54
First Thirty Days	55
Practical Information from A to Z	60-139

Shopping in Seoul	140
What to Buy	141
Where to Buy	151
Special Interest	159
Restaurants	162
Restaurants On Post	162
Restaurants Off Post	164
Travel in Korea - The Adventure Awaits	175
Traveling within Seoul	175
Places of Interest	177
Palaces, Museums and World Heritage Sites	181
Seoul Festivals	182
Parks, Theme Parks and Zoos	183
Travel Outside of Seoul	188
Northern Locations	189
Central Locations	192
Southeast and Coastal Locations	193
Travel Outside Of Korea	196
Travel Medicine Clinic	198
Emergency or Urgent Health Care while Traveling	199
Where to Go	200
Travel Services	211
Camps, Posts and Installations in Korea	212
Bibliography of Selected Resources on Korea	219
Index	220
USAG-Yongsan Gates	227
Maps	228

QUICK REFERENCES

Phone Number Prefixes

To call a military phone number (DSN) from a commercial or cell phone, dial 0505 then the number.

To call to a commercial phone/cell phone from a military phone, dial 99 then the number.

To call a commercial phone from a cell phone, dial 02 then the number.

*Upcoming revision to DSN dialing system: when dialing DSN from non-DSN phones, the prefix will be 05033 plus the last six digits of the DSN number.
Effective date: TBD*

ON POST (Yongsan and Hannam Village)

Operator Assistance	0 or 723-1110
Police	110 (Commercial – 02-724-6695)
Fire	117 (Commercial – 02-738-0117)
Ambulance	116 (Commercial – 02-737-6132)
AAFES Taxi	Commercial 02-1544-9080

Emergency Housing Repair:

South Post	DSN 724-3360
Hannam Village	Commercial 02-794-4448

OFF POST (Seoul Area)

Operator Assistance	Dial 114
Korean National Police (Central Interpretation Center)	02-313-0842
Seoul Metropolitan Police	02-738-9997
Fire and Emergency (Ambulance)	119
Seoul Help Center for Foreigners	02-731-6800
Cell phone Tourism Assistance	1330
BBB Volunteer Service for Translation (Enter 1 for English)	02-1588-5644

Note: All Yongsan telephone numbers and hours of operation are available online at yongsan.korea.army.mil and on [the USAG Yongsan facebook page](#)

HELPFUL WEBSITES

Military/Yongsan Websites:

www.americanforcesspousesclubkorea.weebly.com: American Forces Spouses Club.

www.korea.pac.dodea.edu: the website for the DoD school. Download the student handbooks and enrollment forms

<http://yongsan.korea.army.mil>: Yongsan official site with information on the living environment at Yongsan which features an online event calendar, telephone book, welcome guide, daily weather, etc...

www.usfk.mil: the homepage for USFK and provides links to military websites and other online information sources and publications.

www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil: a military social service website which has integrated maps, other links and an information booklet about the installation.

www.cnic.navy.mil/Korea/index.htm: Homepage for the U.S. Naval Forces Korea. It provides information for families and service members regarding housing, recreation and general information about living in Korea.

www.militaryonesource.com: AFTB official site.

www.armyonesource.com: Find information on volunteering, AFTB, and Army Life.

www.armyfrg.org: Army Family Readiness Groups.

www.talesmag.com/resources/military.shtml: National Military Family Association.

www.npa.go.kr/eng/index.jsp: Korean National Police Agency information on local affairs.

<http://cpol.army.mil>: Employment-check the listings for Korea.

www.milspouse.org: Look for information on finding a job.

<http://aw2portal.com/>: Wounded Warrior Program.

www.militarystudent.org: for military children on moving, military life and more.

www.va.gov: Veterans Affairs website.

www.military.com/spouse: information about employment, schooling, internships.

www.health.mil: combined medical information

<http://www.mwrkorea.com/myinstallation/yongsan.php>: The Community Connection Magazine

<http://www.scribd.com/MorningCalmNews>: The Morning Calm Newspaper

<http://8tharmy.korea.army.mil>: contains the electronic version of their

Welcome Guide Steady magazine, as well as links to military information and the AFN-Korea website.

www.kohomm.org: this is the commercial website for on-post leased housing in Korea and has a link to the Army One Stop Housing website where you can see floor plans and get other information about housing.

www.oconus.com/main/korea.asp: includes many links to different bases in Korea.

<http://afcrossroads.com>: a searchable database on installations, PCS, and travel tips.

Websites on Korea/Activities in Korea:

www.korea4expats.com: Information on living in Korea and exploring the country.

<http://english.seoul.go.kr/>: events and activities happening in and around Seoul.

<http://global.seoul.go.kr/itaewon/>: information on free language classes and other activities

<http://www.visitkorea.or.kr>: information tourist spots, and other recreational activities.

www.visitseoul.net/english_new/index.htm: This site includes and interactive subway map, click on the station and it will tell you what there is to see and do and where to eat in the area.

<http://www.seoulmetro.co.kr/index.jsp>: information on how to ride the mass transit system and an interactive site for trip planning. It has an English Language option.

<http://english.tour2korea.com>: Korean Tourism Organization.

<http://koreaontherocks.com/>: information on rock climbing in Korea

www.awckorea-seoul.org/About.html: Information on activities with American Women's Club in Seoul (not associated with the military)

<http://siwapage.com/members/groups.php>: Seoul International Women's Association

<http://www.travelwireasia.com/author/chrisbacke/>: A blog that includes all kinds of information about making the most of your time in South Korea.

<http://blog.korea.net/>: A blog sponsored by the city of Seoul and providing information on experiencing Korea.

HELPFUL FACEBOOK PAGES

Go to www.facebook.com and look for the following pages:

American Forces Spouses Club: information about club activities, membership and events

Chosun Gift Shop: up to date retail information and volunteer opportunities

Sites in Seoul: very helpful with recommendations and hints on every aspect of living in Korea

Wilderness Adventures Korea: information on climbing activities and other pursuits

The Yongsan Flea Market: a place to buy and sell goods

USO Korea: recreational activities and tour information

USAG – Yongsan

USAG – Yongsan Army Community Service

Yongsan Zumba

Yongsan Pilates

THE AMERICAN FORCES' SPOUSES' CLUB & THE CHOSUN GIFT SHOP

"One Organization, One Mission"

The American Forces Spouses Club (AFSC) is a combined community spouses organization that operates on Yongsan Garrison in South Korea. This "Purple Club" is a mix of all services and civilians. We are Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine spouses, both active duty and retired. We are Embassy, DoD civilian employees, DoDDS teachers and their spouses. We are American Red Cross, USO, and Special Service personnel and spouses. With the inclusion of United Nations Command Officers and spouses, we are truly a "purple" bunch.

The mission of the AFSC is two-fold:

First, it is to enhance the lives of the spouses stationed here at Yongsan, as well as across the peninsula in the Republic of Korea (ROK). We do this by hosting monthly luncheons, which in addition to offering delicious food and shopping experiences with local Korean and American vendors, provides quality programs. The luncheons also provide the opportunity to develop some wonderful friendships. We offer many activities for our members through clubs generated and attended by interested members. We have clubs that meet monthly which include Bunko, Book Club, Photography Club, Running Club, Shopping Club, Tennis Club, and Walking Club. New clubs spring up with new ideas, so bring your talents and share them. In November 2011, AFSC hosted the Night With the Stars Auction with all profits going toward welfare and scholarships. We also hosted a Holiday Tour of Homes in December 2011 with profits going directly to the scholarship awards. We assisted the USO (United Service Organization) with their Operation Christmas Cheer. Thousands of cookies were baked, packaged and delivered to unaccompanied service members. We have also sponsored a number of other events including a Breast Cancer Awareness 5K and a Blanket and Coat Drive. Finally, the AFSC writes and publishes *The Seoul Survivor*. This book is an invaluable resource that gives a comprehensive introduction to life in Seoul, Korea. Check out our website at <http://americanforcesspousesclubkorea.weebly.com/> or our Facebook page, American Forces Spouses Club to find out more about what the AFSC has to offer. Better yet, become a member, join our cause and receive our monthly newsletter the "Chosun Chatter."

Second, our mission is to enhance the area in which we live through charitable giving to our local Korean and American communities. The main fundraising arm of the AFSC is the Chosun Gift Shop. Operated by AFSC volunteers, the Chosun

Gift Shop sells goods from the Far East including Bali, China, Hong Kong, Japan, The Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand. The profits from the AFSC's Chosun Gift Shop are split equally between American and Korean Projects, and then distributed to worthy causes. The organizations that receive these funds are the direct beneficiaries of the hard work of the volunteers and staff at the Chosun Gift Shop and the AFSC. In addition to Korean and American Projects, the AFSC also awards educational scholarships each year to graduating seniors, college students, or to adults wishing to pursue their own educational dreams in undergraduate or graduate degree programs.

The Chosun Gift Shop is located in building 4223 on South Post, (near the Movie Theater and the AWC Thrift Shop). Hours of operations are: Wednesday and Saturday, 10am to 3pm. A military ID card and ration control card are needed for entry. All children under the age of 10 yrs must be accompanied by an adult at all times while in the store. Baby carriages, back packs, packages and beverages must be checked at the door before entry. Children may not be left unsupervised in the foyer area. For updates on what's going on at the Chosun, please visit our Facebook page - Chosun Gift Shop.

There are many opportunities and ways that you can get involved by volunteering your time with The American Forces Spouses Club and the Chosun Gift Shop. You will meet many people along the way and form life-long friendships, but most importantly, you will be making a difference in the lives of so many Korean and American people in our communities. If you would like to volunteer at the Chosun Gift Shop, please stop by the Chosun Gift Shop and fill out the membership application.

Thank you to all of our members for your love and dedication over the years to make this club such a success!

HISTORY OF THE CHOSUN GIFT SHOP



Chosun Gift Shop – Photo by Mary Soergel

Early in 1966, a group of ambitious military spouses started work on their dream, a gift shop here in Korea, to bring local Korean handicrafts and gift items from other places in Asia to the American community stationed in Korea. The drive was spear headed by Mrs. L.W. Schlanser, wife of the Chief of Staff, Eighth US Army. The ladies researched their project as to transportation, customs, location and official regulations.

In March 1966, Mrs. James Simmerman, President of the OWC, submitted a formal application to General Schlanser who approved the project in principle. Official recommendations were to start a “Charity Bazaar” for six months from July until Christmas on a trial basis. Some Okinawa glassware and \$500 served as the initial investment. Handicrafts from the Paraplegic Village and the Vocational school for Girls, Young Chin, were added to serve a dual purpose to introduce Korean handicrafts to the American shoppers and to help these institutions with the extra income.

The project was an instant success. On Saturday, September 16, 1967, the

Chosun Gift Shop held its grand opening in building 3599, a Quonset hut across from the high school. In addition to operating the shop in Seoul and its branch in Taegu, the ladies loaded their merchandise into trucks and periodically visited remote sites to enable the soldiers stationed there to do their shopping. The Taegu shop (The Apple Tree) is now independent of the CGS and is run by the spouses' club on Camp Walker.

On April 10, 1977, the Chosun Gift Shop burned with tremendous loss of inventory. With the help of many benefactors and innumerable volunteer hours, the Chosun Gift Shop reopened in a temporary location several weeks later with the inventory they could salvage from the fire. The CGS was relocated to another temporary location until it could open its doors at a newly built permanent location on May 26, 1998. The permanent Chosun Gift Shop store was rebuilt at the site of the burned store with donated and CGS funds. The building was then given as a gift to the Army.

The Chosun Gift Shop operates with the approval of the command. The Board of Directors must meet the guidelines of the AFSC, Army and Korean Regulations and policies pertaining to private organizations. As a main fundraising arm of the AFSC profits from the CGS go to the AFSC to be distributed through the American and Korean Welfare Project Committees to American and Korean charities throughout the country. These include orphanages, schools, rehabilitation, scholarships, scouts, USO, youth activities, the Red Cross, etc.

The Chosun Gift Shop is operated by a paid staff and loyal volunteers who are members of the American Forces Spouses Club. Merchandise from Japan, China, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and Philippines is sold in various departments to include: rugs, furniture, jewelry, linens, novelties, clothing, dishes and pottery. No Korean made items are sold at CGS.

HISTORY OF U.S. FORCES AT YONGSAN



Eighth United States Army – Photo by Mary Soergel

In 1910, after five years of occupation, the Japanese Empire annexed Korea and immediately began a major building program to consolidate its political and military control over the country. It established the headquarters for the Imperial Japanese Army in Korea at Yongsan (Dragon Mountain) shortly after annexation. The Japanese compound included the areas known today as Yongsan Main and South Posts, Camp Coiner, Hannam Village, the Republic of Korea (ROK) Ministry of National Defense, and the ROK War Museum. During its occupation from 1905-1945, the Japanese garrisoned the post with an infantry division headquarters, at least two infantry regiments, and a cavalry unit. In addition, they located the colonial administrative and governmental headquarters on South Post.

When World War II ended in 1945, the U.S. government sent Lt. Gen. Hodge's XXIV Corps to Korea to accept the surrender of Japanese forces south of the 38th Parallel. Meanwhile, Soviet forces moved into the area north of the parallel. In September 1945, the U.S. 7th Infantry Division established its headquarters at

Yongsan. It helped provide administration, order, and security of the southern zone, pending establishment of a single government for the entire peninsula; however, a unified Korea proved impossible as the Soviets sealed the border at the 38th Parallel and created a communist North Korean state.

All U.S. forces, with the exception of the Korean Military Advisory Group (KMAG), departed Korea in mid 1949. At the request of the ROK government, the U.S. military formed the KMAG at Yongsan to develop and train ROK security forces. These security forces were first organized into police constabularies and later became the foundation of the ROK Army.

The North Korean invasion that began on 25 June 1950 turned Korea into a battlefield. Seoul changed hands four times between the Communist and the United Nations forces. The opposing armies inflicted substantial damage on the city and garrison. In 1952, U.S. forces reestablished headquarters at Yongsan and began restoring the post. The Eighth U.S. Army moved its headquarters from Seoul National University (present day Seoul National University Medical School) to Yongsan on 15 September 1953.

On 1 July 1957, the United Nations Command (UNC) headquarters moved from Tokyo to Seoul in conjunction with an overall reorganization of U.S. military forces and command structures in the Pacific. The U.S. Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the ROK Minister of National Defense created the Combined Forces Command (CFC) in 1977. This two-nation command, headed by a U.S. four-star general, who also serves as the Commander of United Nations Command, USFK, and the senior U.S. Army officer in Korea, will serve as the war fighting headquarters in the event of any future hostilities between the two Koreas.

As the state of “No war, No peace,” embodied in the Armistice Agreement of 1953, stretched through the ensuing years, the garrison at Yongsan expanded its support facilities. Over the years the post went through three major building phases. From 1952 to 1955, the U.S. Army constructed many quonset huts on Camp Coiner and other parts of the post for soldier billeting and offices. Through the 1960s to about 1972, the Army started replacing the quonset huts with multi-story, concrete & steel barracks, concrete mess halls, and gymnasiums to improve soldier living conditions. The third period of construction started about 1977 and went on into the 1990s. Construction included: new troop facilities, family units, schools, the White House (Bldg. 2310), and the Dragon Hill Lodge. Slowly, Yongsan changed from rows of olive drab quonset huts to a modern installation.

Today, Yongsan garrison consists of 630 acres and has about 4,000 military personnel assigned to its headquarters and support agencies. The major tenant

organizations on Yongsan are the UNC/CFC/USFK Headquarters, 8th U.S. Army Headquarters, U.S. Navy Forces Korea, U.S. Marine Forces Korea, 501st Military Intelligence Brigade Headquarters, 1st Signal Brigade Headquarters, the 69th Medical Brigade, the Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital, and the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group Korea (JUSMAGK). Approximately 1,200 U.S. and 6,000 Korean civilian employees augment the U.S. military. In addition, more than 1,000 KATUSA (Korean Augmentation to the U. S. Army) Soldiers serve on post.

Some 7,000 military and civilian employee family members reside on South Post, in a contract housing area east of South Post called Hannam Village, or on the local economy in neighborhoods adjacent to the compound. Although the Headquarters for the 2nd Infantry Division (2ID) is north of Seoul, many 2ID family members live in Seoul or on USAG-Yongsan. The 2ID Combat Aviation Brigade resides at USAG-Humphreys, but has an aviation battalion assigned to K-16.

Information in this section was provided by the USFK Command History Office. For more information, please contact the Heritage Center located on South Post, Bldg 4260, at 723-5213. They have an excellent brochure on a walking tour of the post.



Old Fort at Jeonju – Photo by Claire Wentzel

KOREA

Most Americans have little or no knowledge of Korea's history and culture, and much of what they do know may be an erroneous impression garnered from the news media or old newsreel footage from the Korean War. In reality, the Republic of Korea is a vibrant, vital country of more than 49 million people, all striving to keep up in this fast-paced, modern society. Koreans have become world travelers, world-class economic competitors, and they are highly regarded participants in world affairs. Underpinning all their vast economic and commercial accomplishments over the last twenty-five years though, lays the Korean people's spiritual wealth, their traditional respect for elders, their strong belief in community, their love of nature, and their sense of national pride.

Many newcomers find South Korea to be an exotic place. Keeping an open mind and being willing to experience and appreciate cultural differences will make your tour of duty here one of the most memorable of your military career.

Embark on your Korean experience with a sense of adventure and your journey may surprise you in new and wonderful ways. Soon after you arrive, you will realize the Korean people are very friendly. They will exert themselves to the utmost to understand you. Many Koreans, especially in Seoul, speak some English. At times though, communication can be a frustrating task. The key is to exercise patience, speak slowly (not loudly!) and express gratitude. Your reward will be their readiness to cooperate and to support you.

Korea's history is an amazing mixture of events and trends. Against the backdrop of strong cultural uniformity that started to emerge in the seventh century and has continued up to the present day, we find a pattern of rich contrasts. Buddhist pagodas stand side by side with Confucian Shrines, cycles of great commercial growth are set against downturns of financial decay and numerous foreign invasions are countered by attempts at territorial expansion.

A land-owning aristocratic scholar class ruled over a rigid social structure, supported by less-respected merchants and agricultural peasants who toiled as tenant farmers. Within the Korean government, periods of factional strife and political coups contrast with long periods of stability. Learning about Korea's past helps put the present into true perspective.

On a busy day in Seoul, the capital city of 24.5 million people, we guarantee you'll notice the following:

- **The industriousness of the people** - The official work and school week is Monday through noon Saturday. The second and fourth Saturdays are not official work days.

- **Traffic** - Everyone tries to "get there first." The traffic in many parts of Korea is legendary and rivals the worst that New York, Paris, London, or Washington D.C. has to offer. Rather than a methodical, legalized culture of driving, Korea's driving habits have been described as currents in a vast river all flowing in the same general direction.

- **A myriad of smells** - Visitors quickly come to believe garlic must be the national food staple. It is used extensively in Korean dishes. Two very popular dishes are Bulgogi (barbecued marinated beef), and kimch'i (a fermented vegetable dish with as many variations as there are Korean cooks.) Once you acquire a taste for it, eating Korean-style can be inexpensive and delicious.

- **The clothing** - Koreans are much more formal in their dress than most Westerners and take great pains with their appearance. As the culture becomes even more westernized, the number of Koreans who still wear a traditional Korean dress called "Hanbok" (graceful, full-length garment in several pieces) is declining except on holidays or for formal occasions.

- **The Korean alphabet, Hangul** - This phonetic alphabet, invented by King

Sejong and a group of scholars in 1443, is actually straight forward but often intimidating to foreigners. The 1988 Olympics in Seoul encouraged the Koreans to print most major road and street signs in both Hangul and English.

- **The jostling crowds** - Space is precious in Seoul. Koreans are accustomed to tight crowds, and they assume everyone else is too. Therefore, pushing and shoving is normal and not to be taken personally.

- **The markets** - Nowhere in the world, Hong Kong included, are there markets and shopping areas to rival those of Seoul. Itaewon, located just outside Yongsan garrison, is probably the most famous of the Korean shopping meccas. The true Korean markets, however, are not as Western in style as Itaewon. In the traditional markets like Dongdaemun (East Gate) and Namdaemun (South Gate), products are grouped according to type. Astonishingly you will encounter rows and rows of leather jacket vendors in one place, miles of fabric in another, and thousands of electronic gadgets in another. The range is truly amazing! See Markets under the Shopping section for more information.

As with any other prospective assignment, try to visit or correspond with others who have been stationed here before you come. Stay open minded, though, to form your own opinions. While you are here, take every opportunity to venture off Yongsan and explore this beautiful, mountainous country. Strike up conversations with the Korean people, taste the delicious and sometimes unusual food and enjoy the cultural arts. It will definitely be an experience you will never forget.

FACTS ABOUT SOUTH KOREA

- **History** - Korea is said to have been founded about 4,300 years ago. Its recorded history dates back to 300 B.C. The Republic of Korea (South Korea) was established in 1948.

- **Language** - The Korean written language is referred to as Hangul; the spoken language is simply called Korean (Hanguk-mal).

- **Geography** - Korea is a peninsula thrusting from the northeast Asian mainland in a southerly direction for about 620 miles/1,000 kilometers. The peninsula, contiguous to the two continental powers of China and Russia to the north and nearby oceanic Japan to the south, functioned for a long time as a land bridge through which continental culture was transmitted to Japan. Its peninsula location has both the advantage of easy access to adjacent cultures and the disadvantage of becoming the target of aggressive neighbors. South Korea shares a land boundary with North Korea of about 150 miles/238

kilometers.

- **Topography** - Approximately 70 percent of South Korea's land area is comprised of mountains and uplands. Mount Halla (6,396 feet/1,950 meters) on Jeju Island is the tallest mountain. The longest rivers are the Naktong River, the Kum River, and the Han River, which flows through Seoul.

- **Area** - 8,452 square miles/ 99,237 sq. km (about the size of Indiana).

- **Climate** - Long, cold winters and short, hot, humid summers with late monsoon rains and flooding. Temperatures in January average 21°F to 35°F. (However, 2009 & 2010 have had several weeks of below 20°F temps.) In July the averages are 71°F to 82°F. The annual rainfall varies from year to year but usually averages more than 39 inches/100 centimeters. Of that total, two-thirds of the precipitation falls between June and September.

- **President** - Lee, Myung-Bak.

- **Capital City** - Seoul (Est. population of 24.5 million).

- **Monetary Unit** - Won

- **Population** - Approximately 48.6 Million (July 2010).

- **Largest Cities** - Seoul, Busan, Daegu, and Incheon.

- **Religions** - no affiliation 46%, Christian 26%, Buddhist 26%, Confucianism 1%.

- **Literacy Rate** - Over 98% (one of the highest in the world).

- **Industry** - South Korea's workforce is 20 million strong. Fifty-two percent of the labor force work in the service industry with 27% in mining and manufacturing. Exports include: agricultural products, electronics, machinery, textiles, steel along with metal and chemical products. Major products: clothing, textiles, processed foods, chemicals, and electronics.

- **Natural Resources** - Iron, copper ore, tungsten, and graphite.

- **National Bird** – Magpie (traditionally said to bring good news)

- **National Flower** - Rose of Sharon.

KOREAN NATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

January 1 (New Year's Day) - The first day of the New Year is celebrated with friends, coworkers and families. The most popular event is the bell-ringing ceremony at Bosingak in Jongno, literally "bell street", Seoul on December 31. The bell-ringing event on New Year's Eve draws throngs of people from all over Seoul. The bell ringing is preceded by various events like congratulatory performances by Korean stars. After that, all citizens participate in the countdown to the New Year. Then, as the New Year starts, celebrities, civil representatives,

and senior members from various fields ring the bell 33 times in celebration of a good year. On New Year's Day, it is common for Koreans to travel to famous sunrise spots in order to make New Year's wishes as they greet the first sunrise. The sun first rises in the East Sea off the coast of Korea so many New Year events are organized on the East Coast.

Lunar New Year (Chinese New Year's Day) - Seollal (Lunar New Year in Korean language) is one of the most celebrated national holidays in Korea, next to celebrating Chuseok (Korean Thanksgiving Day). It is celebrated in a similar way to January 1, but on a grander scale. This three-day holiday is celebrated the day before the first day of the first month, on the day of, and the day after the first day of the month according to the lunar calendar. Traditional Confucian families perform ceremonies to commemorate their ancestors. Most notably, the "bowing to their ancestors" is commonly practiced and is very much a part of Confucian tradition. It is a matter of religion for them as well. Confucianism is melted in Korean culture much like Saint Patrick's Day is in America, it doesn't really matter whether you are Irish or not. However, many of Korean Christians and non-Confucian families don't bow to their ancestors, due to their faith and practice. Family members rise early and put on their best clothes. Following the rite and for the remainder of the time, everyone eats the ritual food of Tteokguk, rice cake soup. Tteokgeuk is the main food of Seollal, and eating it is believed to add a year to one's age. Along with eating Tteokgeuk, there is much singing and more traditional food is served. Some examples of traditional foods include: Kimch'i, rice, Bulgogi, a Korean seasoned flavored beef dish, to name a few. Holiday celebrations are an important part of family life in Korea. All celebrations, no matter how large, center on the home. Women can spend hours preparing the traditional dishes; sometimes a family's reputation depends on the amount and the quality of the food. After the holiday meal the younger members bow to their parents and grandparents as a reaffirmation of family ties, receive gifts of money and words of advice for the New Year.

March 1 (Independence Movement Day) - Koreans observe the anniversary of the March 1, 1919, Independence Movement against the Japanese Occupation. The March first Independent Movement was highly influenced by U.S. President Woodrow's Declaration of the Principle of Self Determination at the Paris Peace Conference in January 1919.

Buddha's Birthday - Celebrated on the eighth day of the fourth month of the lunar calendar. Solemn rituals are performed at Buddhist temples, and the day's festivities are climaxed by a "lotus lantern" parade. The Sunday before Buddha's birthday these lanterns are lit and carried in parades in the evening.

May 1 (Labor Day) - This is not a government holiday, however many banks and businesses may be closed.

May 5 (Children's Day) - This day is celebrated with various programs for children who spend the day enjoying themselves with their parents.

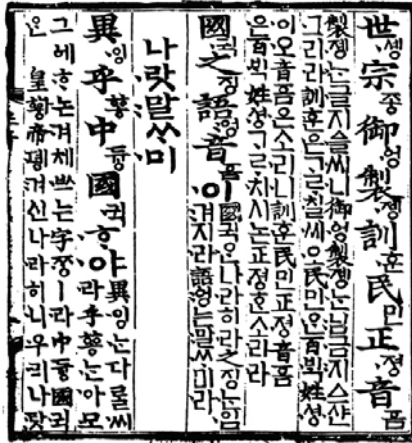
June 6 (Memorial Day) - On this day, the nation pays tribute to its war dead. Memorial services are held at the National Cemetery in Seoul.

August 15 (Liberation Day) - On this day in 1945, Korea was liberated from Japan after 36 years of colonial rule. It also marks the 1948 establishment of the government of the Republic of Korea.

Harvest Full Moon (Korean Thanksgiving Day known as Chuseok) - It is celebrated on the fifteenth day of the eighth month by the lunar calendar (September/October). Chuseok is Korea's most important national holiday. On the morning of Chuseok Day, Songpyeon, a type of Korean rice cake, and food prepared with the year's fresh harvest are set out to give thanks to ancestors through Charye, which is an ancestor memorial service. Formal Charye services are held twice a year: during Seollal (Lunar New Year's Day) and Chuseok. The difference between the two services is that during Seollal the major representative food is white Tteokguk, a rice cake soup, while during Chuseok the major representative food is freshly harvested rice. People visit family tombs and present food offerings to their ancestors. Most Koreans will return to their hometowns during this holiday, so traffic is unusually heavy and travel times double.

October 3 (National Foundation Day) - This day commemorates the traditional founding of the Korean nation in 2333 B.C. by the legendary god-king Dangun. A simple ceremony is held at an altar on top of Mt. Manisan in Ganghwado Province. The altar is said to have been erected by Dangun to offer thanks to his father and grandfather in heaven.

December 25 (Christmas Day) - Celebrated as a national holiday in Korea as in many other countries. It is a religious holiday for Christian families (over twenty-five percent of Korean population), while it remains more of a party for younger generations and couples rather than family gatherings, or gift giving. However, families with little children observe Christmas the same as American families; believing in Santa and Christmas decorations. Christmas Trees in Korean families are small and most of them are artificial: while Christmas cakes are colorful and gaudy, and very popular and common.



THE KOREAN SPOKEN AND WRITTEN LANGUAGE

The Korean language has evolved throughout the centuries. No one knows how long it has been spoken and, despite the geographical closeness of China and Japan, Korean is linguistically distinct from Chinese and Japanese.

Chinese characters were used to write Korean until the 15th century. However, since they were hard to learn and were very different from the Korean spoken language, most people remained illiterate. In 1446, after many years of study and testing by the ruler, King Sejong and his scholars introduced a unique Korean alphabet. It was devised on a purely phonetic basis and consisted of 28 letters. These were arranged in syllable units or blocks and not into linear words. This meant the syllables could be written horizontally or vertically on a page. Over time from this original alphabet, Hangeul, the modern alphabet, has evolved. It has 24 characters and follows the Western convention of writing from left to right. Chinese characters are rarely used today in conjunction with the Korean alphabet, especially in newspapers; it is possible to communicate fluently without using them.

During your tour in Korea, you will find ample opportunity to study the Korean language. Many bases have on-duty and off-duty language classes that are offered without charge. Formal classes are also offered on post; check with ACS for details (Also see the Language section in this book). If you would like to get a head start on learning some Korean, try the free Rosetta Stone Language courses available by registering at Army e-learning. Click the

link <https://usarmy.skillport.com>. The courses are fun and great for learning the correct pronunciations.

NOTE: If you are not a member of the US Army you may encounter problems registering. If this is the case, wait until you arrive and go to the Yongsan Library and register/sign up on the computer system there.

The post libraries offer many language-learning books, along with audio and video cassettes for circulation. The AAFES Main Post Exchange carries similar products as well as useful phrase books and Korean language computer programs. (A wonderful book for simply learning to read the alphabet is “Yes, You Can Learn Korean Language Structure in 40 minutes.”)

English has been taught in Korean schools starting in the 1st grade since 1998. In the past, English was taught in Korean schools beginning in the 7th grade with an emphasis on grammar instead of speaking. The mainly testing-oriented educational system means that many Koreans have memorized a lot of English grammar and vocabulary, but feel quite shy about their conversational skills. When you talk to Koreans in English, speak slowly and simply to increase your chances of being understood.

USEFUL KOREAN PHRASES

The following Korean phrases may assist you during your tour in Korea. They are simple conversational words and phrases designed for newcomers. Koreans will be impressed you have made the effort to learn even a little of their language. The key is not being afraid to try and having the ability to laugh at yourself.

GREETINGS

Good morning	Ahn-nyong ha-say-yo
Good afternoon	Ahn-nyong ha-say-yo
Good evening	Ahn-nyong ha-say-yo
Hello (on the telephone)	Yo-bo-say-yo
May I have Your name?	Ee-ru-mee moo ot shim nee ka?
I'm glad to meet you	Mahn-nah-suh bahn-gah-wuh-yo
Good-bye (by Host)	Ahn-nyong-hee kah-say-yo

SHOPPING

How much does it cost?	OI-mah yeh-yo?
Do you have _____?	_____ it-suh yo?

Show me another one
It is expensive
Can you reduce the price?
I'll take this
It's too big
It's too little

Darun-gut johm bo-yuh-ju-say-yo
Bee-sah-yo
Chom sah-keh-heh ju-say-yo
Egut ju-say-yo
Noh-moo kuh-yo
Jjug-uh-yo

AT THE RESTAURANT

It is very delicious
It is hot (spicy)
I would like a glass of cold water
I would like a bottle of beer
Please give me _____
An English menu
The bill

Ah-ju mah-sheet-so-yo
Mae-wo-yo
Mool ju-say-yo
Mack-ju hahn-byong ju say yo
_____ju-say-yo
Yong-oh menu
Keh-sahn-suh

CONVERSATION

Do you speak English?
Where is _____?
The police station
The restroom
Yes
No
Thank you
You are welcome
I am sorry
Come here
Please help me
Call a policeman (an M.P.)
-For me please
Call this number for me, please?

Young-oh hahm-nee-ka?
_____o-dee itsum nee-ka?
Kyong-chal-suh
Hwa-Jahng-shil
Yeh (or Nay)
Ah-ni-yo
Kam-sah ham-nee-dah
Chon-manh-neh-yo
Mee-ahn hahm-nee-dah
Ee-ree o-say-yo
Jom, dough-wah ju-say-yo
Kyung-chal (huhn-byung)
-bul-luh ju-say-yo
Ee bon-ho-ro jon-hwa jom, heh-ju-say-yo

TAKING A CAB

Please take me to the nearest U.S.
-Military installation
Stop here

Kah-kah-woon mee-goon
-boo-dae-ka ju say yo
Yo-gee se-wo ju-say-yo

What is this place called?
How much is the fare?
Please take me to _____
Itaewon shopping area
South Gate Market
East Gate Market

Yo-gee-gah-aw-deem-nee-ka?
Ol-mah eem-nee-ka?
_____ kab-she-dah
Itaewon she-jahng
Nam-dae-moon she-jahng
Dong-dae-mun she-jahng

WHEN TRAVELING

Give me one ticket to _____
Western-style room
Toilet
Parking lot
Reservation

_____ hahn-jahng ju-say-yo
Cheem-dae bahng
Hwa-jahng-shill
Ju-cha-jahng
Yay-yahk

DAYS OF THE WEEK

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday

Wol-yo-il
Hwa-yo-il
Soo-yo-il
Mok-yo-il
Kum-yo-il
To-yo-il
Il-yo-il

MONTHS OF THE YEAR

January
February
March
April
May
June

Il-wahl
Ee-wahl
Sahm-wahl
Sah-wahl
Oh-wahl
Yu-wahl

July
August
September
October
November
December

Cheel-wahl
Pahl-wahl
Guu-wahl
She-wahl
Shib-il-wahl
Shib-ee-wahl

KOREAN NUMBERS

Chinese numbers are often used when counting sequentially. This includes money, telephone numbers, dates, mileage, etc. When shopping, listen for the Chinese numbers, particularly for the endings which mean hundred, thousand and ten thousand. Notice that Korean numbers go as far as 99. Beyond 100, Chinese numbers are used. When counting how many people, use Korean numbers. Sometimes in the smaller restaurants the prices will be written in the Chinese figures, usually from top to bottom. The following chart offers a brief glimpse of some of the differences in the two systems:

NUMBER	CHINESE	KOREAN
1	il	hah-na
2	Ee	dool
3	sahm	set
4	sah	net
5	oh	tah-sot
6	ruk	yo-sot
7	chil	eel-gop
8	pahl	yo-dol
9	goo	ah-ope
10	ship	yol
20	ee-ship	sue-mool
30	sahm-ship	so-run
40	sah-ship	ma-hun
50	o-ship	She'en
60	rook-ship	yeh-soon
70	chil-ship	ee-run
80	pahl-ship	yo-dun
90	koo-ship	ah-hun
100	baek	baek
200	ee-baek	ee-baek
300	sahm-baek	sahm-baek
1,000	chon	chon
2,000	ee-chon	ee-chon
10,000	mahn	mahn
100,000	ship-mahn	ship-mahn

KOREAN CULTURE AND CUSTOMS

South Korea's population shares a common ethnic and cultural heritage. Intense feelings of nationalism, so evident in athletic events like the 1988 Olympic Games held in Seoul and the World Cup soccer games of 2002, reveal a sense of pride concerning South Korea's place in the world. More than Western people, South Korean individuals tend to view themselves as a tightly knit national community with a common destiny. This chapter contains sections on Korean personality traits, factors that have contributed to making them the way they are, and discussions of important traditions, cultural attitudes, and etiquette. Your awareness of these factors will greatly reward you as you meet and interact with new Korean friends.

The Seoul Survivor Committee is grateful to Mr. Young K. Chang, instructor at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, Presidio of Monterey, California, from whose publication, *Cultural Orientation (Korean)*, much of this chapter is extracted.

KOREAN NON-VERBAL BEHAVIOR AND ETIQUETTE

Customs and attitudes are different in Asia from those of Western countries. Korea has its own set of courtesies. If you take the time to learn and observe them, the rewards are significant.

The traditional bow has given way to the handshake, but friendly backslaps or arm squeezing is considered rude here.

Koreans meeting for the first time introduce themselves only at the invitation of a third party. The formal ritual of introduction is similar to this: The person who knows everyone in the group invites his friends to introduce themselves. One says, "I am seeing you for the first time." The other repeats the same sentence, and the elder one suggests that they introduce themselves. The introductions and formal bows are followed by an exchange of calling/business cards. These cards are very important in Korea. They give an opportunity for each person to discover the other's position without rudely inquiring about them. Cards also do away with the need of asking someone's name twice. When someone presents you with a business card, take a moment to read it before putting it away as a sign of respect.

The proper use of names in Korea is also important. A person's name is

considered his or her personal property. Koreans regard their name with reverence. The persistent wave of Westernization has accustomed Koreans to being addressed by their family name, but only intimate friends and family greet each other on a first-name basis. Koreans prefer titles rather than names. For example, you would call the company president “Sa-jang-nim” or someone with a Ph.D. “Bak-sa.” Teacher or “Sun-saeng-nim” is an acceptable title for anyone.

Try to remember that no matter how “Western” many Koreans may appear on the surface, their thinking is still governed by traditions, which are based on a culture several thousands of years old. The following list covers some important traditions relating to etiquette:

- Avoid eye contact. Looking into an acquaintance’s eyes was generally considered not polite. This is not necessarily true today.

- Use the right hand when performing tasks such as presenting gifts, paying a bill, or pouring a drink. Using the left hand is considered very impolite, but Koreans do understand that Western culture is different.

- Do not point the index finger toward a person or gesture with your foot, it is considered insulting. You may gesture with your full hand, palm upward.

- Do not write someone’s name in red ink, i.e., endorse checks, letters, etc. (name written in red means death).

- If invited to dine at someone’s home, bring a gift. When presenting the gift, use your right hand. Place your left hand below your right forearm near your elbow (as though holding back a loose sleeve).

- Take your shoes off when entering a Korean house or restaurant with low tables.

- Do not start eating before your guest of honor or senior.

- Do not say, “I don’t drink” when offered unwanted alcoholic beverages. It is more polite to say, “I’m not feeling very well today,” “I am a designated driver”, or “I’m on medication.”

- Karaoke is very big in Korea. Sing one of your favorite songs when asked.

- Do not eat or drink without offering your food or beverage to your colleagues.

Do not pour your own drink; pour for someone and let him reciprocate.

- Try to wear conservative clothes.

- Ask your Korean guest more than once to help himself to more food and drink.

- See your guest off at the gate, and stay there until your guest is gone.

- “Yes” is often used simply to acknowledge what is said by one’s counterpart; it does not necessarily mean one is in agreement or understanding.

- Do not suggest splitting the bill. Just remember when it is your turn to pay.

- You may often see two male friends or two female friends walking

affectionately arm-in-arm. This is in no way an indication of their sexual preference.

- Remember the Koreans will want to touch and hold your children when you are out together (especially blondes and redheads). Koreans love children and in this culture, children are treated as “everyone’s treasure” to cherish and protect. If your children are uncomfortable with this, then remove yourselves from the situation as politely as possible. A simple “No, thank you” usually suffices.

TRADITIONAL KOREAN MEALS



Photo by Mary Soergel

Either plain or cooked with other grains, rice is the main dish at most Korean meals. Rice is accompanied by a variety of side dishes. Favorite side dishes include bean paste soup, roasted beef and fish, as well as steamed and seasoned vegetables. Soy sauce, soybean paste, red pepper paste, ginger root, sesame oil and sesame seeds are other seasonings which are essential to Korean food.

Famed as a Korean treat is Kimch’i, a dish of highly seasoned pickled cabbage or turnip served at most every meal. Koreans favor beef dishes, with Bulgogi being one of the most popular. It is known as “Korean barbecue” and consists of thin slices of beef marinated and then cooked on a grill over hot charcoal. The marinating sauce is made of soy sauce, sesame seed oil, garlic and other seasonings. Cooked in the same manner, but using short ribs instead of beef

slices, is another well-known dish called Kalbi.

The traditional Korean homemaker believes that much of her family's happiness depends on her culinary expertise. She often begins her day by preparing a substantial breakfast of hearty soup, meat or fish, steamed rice and kimch'i. A light lunch follows which is similar to the breakfast fare. A generous evening meal is favored, consisting of up to 15 or 20 dishes for special occasions. Food is usually eaten with a pair of chopsticks and a large spoon.

Holiday celebrations are an important part of family life in Korea. All celebrations, no matter how large, center on the home. Women can spend hours preparing the traditional dishes; sometimes a family's reputation depends on the amount and quality of the food.

At an elegant Korean dinner, the first course might be Ku-jol-p'an (nine compartments dish). It is somewhat similar to a French hors d'oeuvre tray. The cooked meat and vegetables are arranged on a large platter with a mound of pancakes in the center.

Homemakers in Korea, like many others in advanced nations, usually have little time to prepare these traditional foods and are well acquainted with frozen fare, microwave lunches, and other high tech cooking conveniences. Fast food restaurants, Chinese takeout/delivery (speedily brought on the back of a motor scooter with a heated box strapped to the back) and food stalls for the passerby are very popular for the busy Korean housewife.

The visitor to Korea will find native food offered in small restaurants, in the large hotels, and in gourmet sections of the large department stores, such as Lotte or Shinsegae. "TRY IT, you'll enjoy it!" In fact, Korean supermarkets usually have sample stations scattered throughout, where they will encourage everyone to try their wares. The following is an alphabetical list of traditional foods and beverages that are served in many Korean restaurants:

- **밥 Bap** - Rice.
- **비빔밥 Bibimbap** - (mixed rice) This Chonju specialty is a bowl of vegetables, rice, and chili paste; topped with a soft fried egg.
- **불고기 Bulgogi** - Thin strips of beef, marinated in sesame oil, soy sauce, sugar, and garlic, then grilled at your table.
- **빈대떡 Bin-de-ddok** - Vegetables, pork and spices cooked in batter; a North Korean pancake.
- **볶음밥 Bokkumbap** - Korean fried rice
- **보리차 Boricha** (barley water) - In lieu of tea, cups of this tepid drink are brought to the table as soon as you are seated in a Korean restaurant.
- **불갈비 Bul Kalbi** - Literally roasted short ribs. Cooked the same way as Bulgogi.
- **차 Cha** - Tea.

- **작설차 Chaksol Cha** (Solluk Cha) - Different kinds of Nock-cha, Korean green tea.
- **잡채 Chapchae** - clear noodles, generally mixed with vegetables and soy based dressing. May be served hot or cold.
- **사이다 Cider** - A local bottled soft drink, similar to 7-Up. Chilsung Cider is a popular brand, served in a green glass bottle.
- **닭갈비 Dakagalbi** - Broiled spicy chicken and vegetables.
- **떡 Ddok** - Rice cake.
- **떡국 Ddokguk** - Rice cake soup traditionally served on the Lunar New Year.
- **두부 Dooboo** - Bean curd called tofu by the Japanese and dofu by the Chinese, it is the compressed white liquid squeezed from cooked soy beans.
- **돌솥비빔밥 Dolsot bibimbap** - Steamed rice mixed vegetable and egg (sometimes beef) with chili paste in a hot stone pot
- **김 Ghim** - Paper-thin sheets of salted laver seaweed.
- **김밥 Ghimbap** - This popular food consists of sticky rice rolled with assorted vegetables, egg, and meats into a sheet of seaweed, and sliced into bite-sized pieces. It's known as Korean Fast Food or the Korean MRE.
- **군만두 Goon Mandu** - Fried Mandu. A perfect hors d'oeuvre when served with a soy sauce. Yaki Mandu is the Japanese term.
- **인삼 In Sam** - Ginseng. A root long prized for its medicinal properties, it is also used in cooking. **백삼** Paeksam is white ginseng; **홍삼** Hongsam is red ginseng.
- **인삼차 In Sam Cha** - Ginseng tea.
- **갈비 Kalbi** - Pork or beef short ribs. (Kalbi Jhip - A Kalbi restaurant.)
- **갈비탕 Kalbi Tang** - Kalbi soup, the least expensive way to eat Kalbi.
- **김치 Kimch'i** - Cabbage, radishes or other vegetables pickled with garlic, chili pepper and ginger, then fermented in huge jars buried in the ground. NO Korean meal is complete without it!
- **김치찌개 Kimch'i jjigae** - Kimch'i stew
- **구절판 Ku-jol-pan** ("Nine treasures") - Strips of egg and vegetables are served in a compartmented dish with thin crepes in which you wrap the other eight treasures.
- **찐만두 Jjin Mandu** - The Korean equivalent of Chinese won ton, made of minced pork or beef and vegetables wrapped in thin pastry crescents, steamed and served with soy sauce.
- **막걸리 Makkolli** - Rice wine, the drink traditional to farmers.
- **맥주 Maek-ju** - Beer.
- **무우 Moo** - The large white Japanese daikon radish used in summer kimch'i.
- **물 Mul** - Water.
- **면 Myon** - Noodles, sometimes thin and white if made from flour. Other myon

are made with buckwheat, potatoes, or mung beans.

- **냉면 Nang Myon** - Cold noodles that are 70% buckwheat and served in a dish of cold water to which you may add a dollop of chili paste. This is considered a perfect complement at the end of a bulgogi meal.
- **사케 Sake** - Called chonjongg in Korea, this is traditional Japanese rice wine served in tiny cups.
- **삼계탕 Sam-kye tang** - Ginseng chicken soup. A summer specialty, the chicken is boiled with a piece of the medicinal root, jujubeas and is stuffed with glutinous rice.
- **참깨 Sesame** - A herb frequently used in Korean cooking. Kae is Korean sesame. The leaves are added to soup, the seeds to vegetables and meat marinades, and the oil for flavoring in cooking.
- **설렁탕 Seolleongtang** - Beef soup served with rice.
- **신선로 Shinselo** - A casserole once served only to royalty. Fried eggs, fish, meat, and vegetables are cut into strips and simmered in broth in the distinctive charcoal brazier.
- **소주 Soju** - distilled beverage native to Korea and traditionally made from rice.
- **송편 Songpyon** - Chusok half-moon shaped rice cakes.
- **간장 Soy Sauce** - Made by fermenting the liquid of boiled soy beans, this is one of the most popular condiments in a Korean kitchen.
- **스시 Sushi** - Slices of raw fish dabbed with wasabi and curled over a clump of sticky rice.
- **유자차 Uja Cha** - Citron tea, usually served in winter.
- **약주 Yakchu** - Can mean any kind of clear liquor, a respectable word for liquor.

For recipes, try the AAFES Book Mark cookbook section. There are many good Korean cookbooks on the market. Also, the Main Library has some cookbooks you might want to check out. Korean food gives us a glimpse into the Korean Culture. Certain foods are associated with festivities as well as the seasons. ACS offers great classes. Take advantage of the Korean Food Discovery class. The class gives a general overview of what dishes consist of as well as a “kid meter” – what may or may not appeal to children. The class includes food tasting and lunch. Call the ACS at 738-7505 to sign up for the Korean Discovery class. Enjoy!!!

PLANNING YOUR PCS

WHAT TO DO AND WHEN TO DO IT

Congratulations on your assignment to Korea! Our Seoul Survivor experience is here to assist with your transition.

Take a trip to your Army Community Service (ACS), Air Force Family Service Center or Navy and Marine Family Service Center to sign up for an Overseas Move Class for Korea. If you and your family belong to a service branch other than the Army, remember to tell the person helping you that Yongsan Garrison (known as USAG Yongsan) is in Seoul, South Korea and is an Army installation. In addition, be sure to look in your local bookstore or library and on the Internet for assistance.

If you have not heard from a sponsor as your move draws near, definitely take the initiative and contact your gaining unit, either by email or telephone, and ask for any sponsorship information they can provide. A sponsor should be assigned automatically, but sometimes this is unintentionally overlooked. Korea is an assignment where a sponsor is necessary and can be a relocating family's biggest asset. Your sponsor can get your email and/or mailing address, assist with kennel reservations, check availability of quarters, provide you with Internet sites for learning more about relocation, as well as the bases and surrounding communities in Korea.

DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS!

As we all know, moving involves many details, and a successful move requires careful planning. The following information is included to assist with your move to Korea.

Power of Attorney - It is wise for all Service Members and their Families to have a current Power of Attorney. Remote assignments, deployments and Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) requirements make a Power of Attorney an absolute necessity in Korea. Whether your family will be coming with you to Korea or remaining in the United States, it is a good idea to have a Power of Attorney prepared before leaving your current duty station.

Automobile - There are several options available to service members and their families, but regulations vary. (See the sections What to Bring and Vehicles in A-Z). If your vehicle is financed, you will need permission from the lender to

ship your vehicle overseas (contact your lender for specifics). If you are leaving a vehicle in the States, provide a special POA to the person keeping the vehicle for selling or dealing with your insurance provider. Contact your insurance provider to find out their requirements and take care of these issues early. Insurance is available in Korea through USAA, GEICO and CIGNA.

Computers and Electronics - Check with the manufacturer of your computer or other electronic devices to ensure that you will be able to get parts and service. Know that technology changes in the blink of an eye and many times a newer, better product is also cheaper. The Korean Electronics market is close to USAG-Yongsan and might become your new “best friend.”

Driver’s License - Make sure that your U.S. driver’s license is current and will remain current for your entire tour in Korea (and a few months beyond). Most Departments of Motor Vehicles will allow you to renew your license at any time, so it is wise to do this before you leave the States. Within the first thirty days of your arrival, you will need to obtain a United States Forces Korea (USFK) license to drive on post or anywhere in Korea. Check at ACS for more information.

International Driver’s License - If you plan on extensive travel in Asia (Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, etc.), we strongly suggest you visit your local AAA office to obtain an international driver’s license. International licenses are available in Korea, but it is easier to obtain one before you arrive.

Employment Records - Family members wishing to work in Korea should hand carry proof of previous employment, such as official personnel records, letters of recommendation, pay stubs, etc. Also, bring copies of any diplomas and transcripts and a copy of your marriage license to assist in qualifying for Military Spouse Preference. Family members wishing to work on the Korean economy, for instance as an English teacher, should bring their original diplomas. Copies of diplomas are not sufficient for the required E-2 visa. Some employers and colleges require an official, sealed transcript with a signature or stamp along the seal line of the envelope. Also see Employment in A to Z.

Eye Exam - If you wear contact lenses, particularly the soft or extended wear type, have your exam and purchase contacts before leaving the States. The Optometry Clinic gives contact lens exams only for medical problems and existing prescriptions that may need changes, so you should have your initial exam and prescription done in the States. You can purchase lenses on the Korean economy, but if possible bring a supply of lenses with you. If you already order contacts online, be sure that your provider will ship to an APO address. Due to the pollution, many long-time contact lens wearers find that they are unable to constantly wear their lenses here. Also see Medical in A To Z and Special Interest Shopping in Shopping.

Furniture - Accompanied military members are either entitled to full furniture transport (depending on branch of the military and/or rank) or 50% furniture transport. If you are an accompanied military family living on post (whether you brought all or partial household goods), you are authorized full furniture support from the Housing Office. If you are an accompanied military family living off-post and are only entitled to bring partial household goods support, you are authorized furniture support from the Housing Office for your entire tour. If you are entitled to bring full household goods and live off post, you are only authorized furniture support for 6 months. Civilian families are only authorized 6 months furniture support as they are automatically entitled to full household goods shipments. It is important to note that if items are in storage and you then move to another overseas location, you are entitled to have all your items shipped from long term storage to a new location. However, it is not possible to ship some items and leave some in storage and items in long term storage cannot be released until you have a final address in your new assignment after Korea.

Housing - Contact your sponsor or gaining unit to learn what housing is available and when you can expect quarters. Go online and make reservations for yourself at the Dragon Hill Lodge (located on USAG-Yongsan). The website is: www.dragonhilllodge.com. International phone is CONUS: 011-822-7918-2222, FAX: 011-82-2-7901576 (telephone is sometimes a more accurate way of getting the information on availability). When making your reservations at the Dragon Hill Lodge, err on the side of caution and book for 60 days. The Housing Office must approve stays longer than 10 days in the temporary quarters, but having the reservation for 60 day ensures that especially during the summer you and your family will not be “wait listed” or moved to an off-post hotel during your transition. The US Army’s Yongsan Garrison Pet Care Center is the primary Seoul Area pet care provider in for all Service Members pets in a PCS Inbound or Outbound status in. For those Service Members who arrive in Seoul after normal duty hours or on weekends, the Dragon Hill Lodge has a designated area inside of the building where pets can temporarily stay in their travel kennels until they can be moved to the Garrison’s Pet Care Center. While in the Dragon Hill Lodge holding area, sponsors are responsible for the feeding and care of their pets. The Dragon Hill Lodge Security Office which is located in close proximity to the pet holding area has oversight of the pets and will notify the sponsor if a pet is showing signs that attention is needed.

Identification card - Your military identification card is your lifeline overseas. You will need this to get on post and gain access to most facilities. If your identification card will expire during your stay in Korea, get it renewed before

your move here. If your identification card expires while you're on tour in Korea, it affects the SOFA Stamp put in your passport and many more things. If you arrive and the card still hasn't been renewed, take care of the renewal of the ID card while you're still in-processing at the 19th Personnel Company (Bldg 4034). Call 723-5461.

Immunizations - The requirements on this can vary, so it is important that you contact your stateside medical facility for current information. (Preventative Medicine is the best clinic to speak with.) Do this immediately, because several of the immunizations may require a series of shots given over the course of a few weeks or months. It is important to get PPD testing done for every member of your family before coming to Korea. This is necessary for school and youth activities enrollment, and must be updated yearly. Make sure the results are recorded in your yellow shot record card. Refer to Immunizations in A to Z. For more information on immunizations recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention visit the following website: www.cdc.gov/travel/eastasia.htm.

Insurance - Adequate automobile and personal effects coverage is essential. Check with your insurance company and make sure your renter's and auto policies cover living abroad. Insurance is also available in Korea through USAA, GEICO and CIGNA. Also, see Insurance in A to Z.

Legal Documents - Make sure all necessary documents are up-to-date and copies are either left in a safety deposit box or given to a trusted friend, relative, or attorney. Hand carry original documents such as birth certificates, marriage licenses, and wills on the plane. One of the first things you will need to do after arrival is create a Noncombatant Evacuation (NEO) packet, and these documents will be required.

Mail - Have your sponsor or gaining unit assign a mailing address so you can fill out change of address forms before you PCS. Most people stationed in USAG-Yongsan are required to receive personal mail through their workplace. The positive effect of this policy is that you will be able to obtain your permanent mailing address in Korea before leaving the States since your address is not based upon your housing unit. Mail is not delivered to offices on weekends or holidays (US and Korean).

Medical Records - You and all of your family members will be required to obtain a medical clearance and any EFMP screening required prior to consideration and/or approval of command sponsorship. Make sure your medical records are up to date and include up-to-date shot records. It is always a good idea to have all of your vaccination and medical records accessible while going through Incheon Customs and Immigration. Arrange to have your annual

medical examination and obtain extra refills for needed medications before you leave the States. This will give you a little less to worry about and enable you to get through the transitional period before your first medical appointment.

Money - If you are coming from a major city with banks or private companies that deal in foreign currency, it may be possible for you to buy some Korean Won at an advantageous rate. Check with your sponsor or gaining unit to see what the current exchange rate in Korea is and then compare that to the exchange rates available stateside. Once at USAG-Yongsan, all the ATM machines dispense your choice of Dollars or Korean Won. A note of caution: Be aware of any fees or commissions that could cancel out any advantage of the quoted rate. Dollars are widely accepted in Korea, so you should not be concerned if you do not have any local currency upon arrival. You will be able to exchange US dollars at the airport, but it is not recommended that you exchange large amounts as this rate is generally the lowest available. www.x-rates.com has information on exchange rates.

Mosquitoes - These pests can be a huge problem in Korea depending on the rain and are active from mid-spring well into the winter months. There are some options available on the economy to minimize mosquito problems, but it is recommended that you bring any products that have worked for you in the past. Probably the best and most effective mosquito plan is mosquito nets over the bed, so bring them with you if you possibly can although they can be purchased in the local stores and markets.

Orders - Always have multiple copies of your orders (with amendments and pinpoint orders) and any separate orders for family members available for in-processing both at Korean Immigration and on-post. Make at least 10 extra copies so you will not be caught short-handed. If you need to make additional copies, your unit or 19th Personnel Company can assist you.

Passport/Visa - Although an active duty Service Member can generally travel with his or her military ID card accompanied by military orders or leave paperwork, this is not always the case in Asia (China, for example, requires a passport with visa for entry). Family members are required to have a passport with a proper Korean A-3 Visa and SOFA Stamp per individual. Contact your local personnel office for the proper forms and information. The government will provide a no-fee passport with the A-3 Visa (which allows for multiple entries into Korea) to all eligible command-sponsored family members. The processing time is generally between 6 and 8 weeks, so begin the process as soon as orders for command-sponsorship are approved. Do not depart your losing installation without receiving the Government passport. All family members, civilians, and even newborns must have an A-3 Visa and SOFA Stamp within 90 days upon

arrival. Each person in the family (to include the military member) is encouraged to have a US Tourist passport as well. This allows you the option to travel in Asia while you are here.

Pets - Many people choose to bring their pets to Korea. Be aware, however, that pets are not allowed in the Hannam Village or Burke Towers housing complexes. There are currently no exceptions to this policy (under review). Korean apartments generally do not provide areas for walking pets; however, Yongsan garrison does have a very nice dog park for use by all ID card holders. Check with the Housing Office to find out about the availability of housing and whether pets can be accommodated. Be sure and check with your airline about the cut-off dates for heat restrictions when shipping your pet. There are very specific rules and regulations on the importation of your pet and the size of pet carrier allowed. For more information see Pets in A-Z, or contact the 106th MED DET (VM) Unit at 738-5145/4261 or from U.S. 011-822-7918-5145/4261. For boarding and/or grooming call the Yongsan Pet Care Center 736-6426.

The US Army's Yongsan Garrison Pet Care Center is the primary Seoul Area Pet Care Provider for all pets in a PCS Inbound status. For those Service Members who arrive in Seoul after normal duty hours or on weekends, the Dragon Hill Lodge now has a designated area inside of the building where pets can temporarily stay in their travel kennels until they can be moved to the Garrison's Pet Care Center. While in the Dragon Hill Lodge holding area, sponsors are responsible for the feeding and care of their pets. The Dragon Hill Lodge Security Office which is located in close proximity to the pet holding area has oversight of the pets and will notify the sponsor if a pet is showing signs that attention is needed.

School Records - Make sure that copies of all school records are up-to-date and hand carried. For guidelines on the documents needed for the DoDD schools on post, visit www.korea.pac.dodea.edu. School records (diplomas and/or transcripts) are required to take college-level courses at the university campuses on-post.

Telephone Calling Cards - There are several options for long distance service from Korea to the States. The most widely used system involves pre-paid phone cards sold by PX concessionaires. Many of these cards offer excellent rates (6 to 8 cents per minute to the States and sometimes lower). MCI and Sprint allow credit card holders to make calls from Korea and then the charges are posted on their credit cards. Prepaid cards for cell phones (local and international calling) or International Calling Rates from a Korean cell phone offer good rates as well and are available at the Dragon Hill Lodge, PX concessionaires and the One-Stop Shop located by the Embassy Row Starbucks. Voice Over IP options (such as

Vonage or Skype) are also options for calling the States while in Korea.

Unaccompanied Tour - If you decide to join your sponsor on an unaccompanied tour, there are some things you will need to consider. School-aged children are wait-listed for the DoDD schools, and are not guaranteed a space from year to year (many of these families choose to home school). Non-command-sponsored family members pay for their own transportation to Korea, as well as come on tourist passports receiving their A-3 Visas and SOFA Stamps in country, and will have to live on the economy. However, non-command-sponsored family members who are eligible for Identification cards and who are registered in DEERS are eligible for ration control cards and all on-post services, including medical and dental services. Contact your local TRICARE office for more details.

Command-sponsored policy – Command sponsorship is in the process of restructure. All command sponsorships are given through the incoming command on a space available basis. Check with your assigned command for determination and availability.

WHAT TO BRING

With any PCS move, one of the biggest issues is what to move and when to move it. A word of advice - Under pack your household goods if possible. There are so many things to buy, both on the local economy, when traveling and at the Chosun Gift Shop that nearly everyone goes home with more weight than they originally brought. This must be balanced, however, with the fact that there are some things that simply are not available (at least not at a reasonable price) in Korea. Therefore, prudent packing can be the key to a successful PCS.

When you first arrive, you may have to “live out of your luggage” for four to eight weeks or make purchases at the PX or on the economy. Before you leave the States, find out which of your favorite stores will ship to an APO address and find out their website addresses. On a positive note, clothing on the economy, particularly at the large markets, is relatively inexpensive and plentiful. Be aware that sizes are typically available for men and women of small build and children’s sizes typically run much smaller than American children’s sizes.

PLAN YOUR PACKING IN FIVE COMPONENTS

1. HAND CARRY - passports, copies of orders, power of attorneys, medical, school, immunization records, pet documents, employment records, address

book, personal toilet articles, any essential medicine, and all identification cards. Bring your car seats, even if they are merely checked. To ride on-post in personal vehicles or taxis, your children must be properly belted in. You may want to pack something to occupy yourself and your children (i-Pods, DS Lites, books, etc) and food to snack on during what may possibly be the longest flight of your life (11 to 12 hours nonstop from the West Coast and 15 to 16 hours from the East Coast). **Due to increased airport security, please check with your airline or visit www.usfk.mil or travel.state.gov/travel for more information on what is allowed in carry-on luggage.**

2. BAGGAGE FOR THE PLANE - What you include will be limited by the baggage weight limits, but the following are some suggested “essentials”: current seasonal clothes and several pairs of comfortable shoes. (You will do a lot of walking compared to what a typical American usually does.) Remember to check your orders and check with your airline about the number of bags and the weight limit. (Some actually have very generous allowances for military on orders.) Seasonal “must haves” include: raingear (umbrella and rain boots) during the summer months (monsoon season is no joke) and warm layers during the winter. Bring car seats (check booster seats) and if you use an umbrella stroller, check one as baggage. Each family member should have their own ticket, therefore each family member is entitled to luggage. If you must, bring the maximum number of suitcases to ensure you have all you and your children need.

3. UNACCOMPANIED BAGGAGE (Hold/Express Baggage) - Although this cargo plane shipment might be slightly delayed, it may still be the only shipment you receive for months if you have to live in a hotel or temporary housing until your permanent housing becomes available. Even if you move into your permanent housing right away, your household goods may not arrive for a few months. Plan your hold baggage carefully. While the Army Community Service (ACS) Loan Closet can help you with some items until your shipment arrives, consider sending the following items in “hold/express baggage”:

- Kitchen & eating necessities, including plates, utensils, pots and pans.
- Small appliances such as a microwave oven, toaster, and coffee maker.
- Household supplies (broom, vacuum)
- Shower curtain and hooks
- Towels (bath and kitchen)
- Bed linens including blankets and pillows
- Clothing to span the current season and the next.

- At least one evening dress/suit, for various social functions
- Children’s items, particularly their favorite games and toys
- Baby: crib, changing table, jogger stroller, etc...
- Computer equipment
- TV/DVD player and electronic accessories
- Small hand tools (hammer, screwdriver)
- Lightweight decorations

4. HOUSEHOLD GOODS vs. STORAGE - The government allows only a certain percentage of your total weight allowance to be shipped to Korea. The remainder of your items will need to be placed in storage at government expense. Weight allowances vary depending on branch of service and rank, so check with your Personnel Office, Travel Management Office, or Personal Property Office for the correct information. Army families are typically allowed to ship only 50% of the Joint Federal Travel Regulation (JFTR) allowed weight allowance. Your household goods shipment may take several months to arrive, so you may want to consider sending this shipment early. Inventory this shipment very carefully. If you are sending special items, take color photos prior to packing and hand carry those photos to help settle any claims.

Regardless of your weight allowance, think carefully when deciding what to ship. Bring the things that you cannot live without, but keep in mind that your life may become filled with “treasures” from Asia. Do not bring things “just in case” you might need them. Housing varies widely, but most quarters are smaller than state-side homes and have minimal storage space; you can quickly find yourself over-crowded. There is typically no additional storage space.

CONSIDER BRINGING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- **Room air cleaners and filters** - Plan on bringing enough filters (or find a website that ships what you need to an APO) for your entire stay in Korea. These are EXTREMELY necessary for those with breathing conditions and small children.

- **Small tools** - Saw, impact-hammer drill (important as walls are concrete in most housing), mortar bits, etc. If you are sure you will be in Government housing, these tools are available at the Self Help Center on Yongsan Garrison but at times are difficult to reserve. Some housing areas require that you schedule

- **Baby items** - Furnishing Management Office (part of Housing) does not have cribs, toddler beds, changing tables or any other baby furnishing items to loan. If you have a baby or are expecting bring baby furniture in your household

goods.

- **Specific clothing needs** – buying a large supply of underwear, bras, and shoes prior to your PCS is recommended. Don't laugh – go into the your exchange and if they carry the brands, styles, and sizes you prefer, you are in luck; otherwise get shopping! The choices over here on the economy tend to be for the young and the small. Thus, you will be trying to buy these comfort items over the internet. PLAN AHEAD!

- **Sports equipment** - Golf clubs, tennis equipment, ski gear, and sports shoes for your children in the next size up if they prefer certain brands.

- **Sewing machine** - Have your machine serviced before you come and bring all essential accessories.

- **Gas grill** - Be aware that you cannot ship your own tank (even purged). You can get propane tanks at the PX Mini Mall.

- **Rugs and carpets** - Floors in most quarters are linoleum over concrete, and they are cold. Area rugs are available at the AAFES Furniture Store at reasonable prices though selection is limited. Beautiful Asian rugs are imported and available at the Chosun Gift Shop. Rugs and carpets are available on the economy, but may be expensive. Consider bringing your own rugs and carpets (and carpet padding) with you.

- **Christmas and other holiday decorations** are a must to bring. You may want to downsize the quantity due to the size of your new living space. Some Christmas decorations are available at the PX/Four Seasons and on the economy. Fresh Christmas trees are sold through the Boy Scouts Organization. The prices are comparable to the U.S. or slightly higher but you should make a mental note to pre-purchase when you see the Boy Scouts pre-selling in the PX or Commissary.

- **Craft supplies** - Bring a sufficient quantity of regularly used items, especially water-based craft paint which is difficult to find in Korea. USAG-Yongsan Arts and Crafts center does not have facilities for stained glass and do not sell stained glass supplies.

- **Pictures, books and decorative items that transform a house into a home.** Be sure to include plenty of these because they are real morale boosters. Keep in mind, though, that most quarters have walls made of concrete. You may want to consider leaving irreplaceable treasures in storage or with family members so pollutants will not damage them.

- **Entertainment center/stand** for your TV. (Check with Housing to see if one will be provided with your allotted furniture, it depends on where you live.)

- **Futon, air mattress,** or some type of sleeping arrangements for visitors you may have. Housing provides only enough mattresses and bed furniture for each

family member. A note about bedding: The mattresses tend to be hard, and the largest bed available is queen size. If you prefer a soft mattress or a king-sized bed, bring your own mattress, box spring, and frame. If you bring twin-sized mattresses for your children, bring the box springs, as the bed frames Housing provides are for extra long twin beds. Twin size sheets do not fit the twin beds provided by housing, so bring extra long twin sheets or you can purchase them at the PX. A feather bed or other mattress topper in queen size is a good alternative to shipping your own bed.

- **Planter boxes or pots** - The self help store has flowers, seeds, dirt, rocks, border materials, and mulch available free of charge in the spring, but planters have to be purchased.

- **Dehumidifier/humidifier** - Dehumidifiers are issued at Self Help, but quantities are very limited. If you have one, bring it. Dehumidifiers are also available on the economy and simple to identify as they have a “hippo” as a logo. Dehumidifiers are a necessity during monsoon season (95% humidity) as they reduce the moist sheet feeling in bedding or mold/mildew problems in your house. In the winter, you have the opposite problem – you need moisture (15% humidity). Bring a humidifier to reduce bloody noses and dry coughs.

- **Slipcovers** for standard size living room furniture. Certainly not a necessity, but since all the furniture in housing looks the same they can help express your individuality.

- **Stepladder (small).**

- **Fans** - Some housing areas have ceiling fans, but many do not. Pedestal fans are available at the PX seasonally.

- **Router for wireless net** - If you have one, bring it as you will probably want it. However, they are sold at the PX.

CONSIDER NOT BRINGING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- Large pieces of furniture, since Housing provides basic household furniture. (See Furniture in A to Z.)

- Irreplaceable or light colored upholstered items because the dust here will make them dingy.

- Large outdoor toys or play sets, because storage is an issue, and you may not have a downstairs housing unit to set up the items.

- China and crystal dinner services, unless you routinely do formal entertaining.

- Major appliances such as a stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washing machine and dryer as they are furnished by Housing.

5. AUTOMOBILE - (See Vehicles in A to Z). You must give thought to whether

or not you will need a car in Korea. For most eligible individuals, the answer is usually YES. Although there are buses (free post shuttle) and taxis on post, using them can be time-consuming and expensive. Most areas on post are accessible by foot, but some housing areas can be as far as two miles from one's workplace. If you are allowed to ship a vehicle, it will be indicated in your orders. If you are authorized to register a vehicle on post, you will be allowed to register one automobile and one motorcycle/moped per family. Since it is considered a recreational item, you are allowed to ship your motorcycle with your household goods but it will count against your weight allowance. If you are not authorized to ship a vehicle, check with your gaining unit to see if you are eligible to purchase one upon arrival. Send your vehicle as early as you can from the States...you'll be glad you did. There are a variety of used cars (hoopties) for sale, usually sold by outgoing personnel. These are local Korean cars, often several years old but reasonably priced. Most of these cars have seen better days, but they are better than sending your new car from the States. Remember, if you drive off post the roads can be very congested with narrow streets and small parking spaces. Expect many dings and dents on whatever car you decide to use. The single automobile policy is in effect, regardless of whether you ship or purchase one. There are certain exceptions to policy on POV entitlements. Generally E6 and below are not authorized to ship a vehicle on orders. In country, command-sponsored military families independent of rank are generally authorized to own and register a POV on a case by case basis. Exceptions to policy are granted for a second POV.

Several factors should go into your decision of whether to ship or purchase a vehicle:

- Arrival time and cost: Inexpensive (\$500-\$3,000) used cars are normally available during PCS season and it can take six weeks to two months for a shipped car to arrive. Should you decide to ship your car, seriously consider the options that will enable you to ship your vehicle early. Though most areas of the post are accessible by foot, walking during the hot summer months can be exhausting, especially if you have young children. In addition, you may be required to live off-post, either permanently or until your quarters are available. Information about shipping vehicles is available at www.wheremypov.com.

- You are authorized to sell one vehicle during your command-sponsored tour. This is a tricky area, so you should seriously consider this before making any shipping decisions based on intent to sell.

- Any vehicle must pass a safety inspection before installation pass and

tags are issued. If your POV is coming from the U.S. and it has a crack in the windshield glass of 1" or more, be sure to replace it before shipment.

• Finally, if you wish to ship a vehicle back to the States, you must have shipped one to Korea.

TRAVEL DAY

The flight to Korea from the United States is very long. If you have airline mileage points, this would be a good time to use them and upgrade your seats. To make yourself more comfortable on your flight, you might consider bringing:

- Ear plugs
- Eye mask
- Eye drops
- Snacks, gum, lollipops
- Small skin lotion
- Books and magazines (if you travel through airports that have a USO you can take advantage of their book swap tables)
- Travel pillow (not all domestic flights offer them)
- Toiletry kit--always expect the unexpected!

Note: Due to increased airport security, please check with your airline or TSA prior to arrival at the airport for travel fluid sizes and restricted items. To avoid dehydration, be sure to drink plenty of water during your flight and remember to stand up and stretch or walk around often during your flight.

If you are flying with children:

- Encourage your children to stand up periodically and stretch.
- Bring favorite snacks or foods if you have a child with specific preferences.
- Bring a car seat; you will want them on the plane for smaller children.
- Bring puzzles, notebooks, books, small games, handheld electronics, iPods and portable DVD players. They can be a sanity saver.
- Give your children something to look forward to during a long plane or car ride, prepare surprise packets that will be opened by them periodically during the journey.



Incheon International Airport

TOUCHDOWN!

When you arrive at Incheon International Airport outside of Seoul, one thing is almost certain - you will be tired and wish you were anywhere else rather than standing in line for Korean Customs and Immigration. Make sure you have your passport as well as the Customs Declaration and Arrival Card you filled out on the flight with your passport and easily accessible. You will most likely take a train shuttle to the main terminal before beginning the check in process. Ask for assistance if you are unsure. Airport personnel do speak English and will be helpful.

Do not, under any circumstances, try to bring weapons or contraband into Korea. While the customs inspectors are pleasant and helpful, they are also very thorough. Contraband items such as drugs and deer antlers will get you into trouble, not only with the Korean authorities, but also with the Military Police. Decorative swords should be shipped with your household goods. All other weapons should be left in storage. The Incheon International Airport website is www.airport.or.kr/Eng/home.jsp.

Important Note: A military liaison must pick up all arriving Army personnel

unless a sponsor has obtained the proper clearance from the 19th Personnel Company (723-5461) to transport the military member. For other branches of service a sponsor will need to pick you up or you can check in and utilize the Military processing transportation bus to USAG-Yongsan located in terminal section F. All family members (except pets) are allowed to accompany the military member on the Military Processing transportation bus to USAG-Yongsan

INCHEON INTERNATIONAL ARRIVAL

There are 4 main stages to getting through the airport and the process can last about an hour or more.

1st you will travel from the international gate to the main terminal via the train shuttle. People who know the system will be moving fast to try to beat the crowd, so you may experience some jostling along the way. Keep your sense of humor and be prepared to either wait for the next shuttle or squeeze into the first one. Once you exit the shuttle, you'll follow the flow of people toward the Korean Immigration lines. You will stand in single file to wait your turn.

2nd stage is Korean Immigration. For military members have your DA 31 and ID card ready; that's all you need. For family members, **make sure they stamp your passport with an entry stamp. This is very important for the purposes of your SOFA stamp later.** It is better to go through Korean Immigration as a family and not individually. A copy of orders is helpful.

3rd stage is the Customs area, but you will need to follow the crowd to the luggage pick up area and get your luggage first. There are luggage carts handy that are free of charge. Once you've collected your belongings, walk to the exit and the Customs lines. There will be a couple of selections based on whether you have anything that you need to declare.

4th stage is going through the automatic doors to the main terminal to meet those that are there to greet you. OR make your way over to the Military Reception desk located between exits 13 and 14 to arrange transportation. USAG - Yongsan is about 45 miles from the airport and will take about an hour and a half to travel. If you arrive during daylight, you'll enjoy seeing the mountains that rise up all around. If you arrive in the evening hours, you'll enjoy the beautiful city lights.

You may want to find something to eat before leaving the airport depending on your time of arrival. Eating facilities on post are normally closed by 21:00. There is an AAFES Shoppette at the Dragon Hill Lodge with extended hours that will have basic items available.

Army Liaison Pick Up - After you arrive at Incheon, you will be met by an Army liaison once you complete Customs. The liaison will then guide you through the airport and transport you via military bus to USAG-Yongsan (about a one-hour drive). If you do not see the liaison in the terminal, go ahead and look for the U.S. Military Liaison Office located near exits E and F. If you don't see anyone, turn right and walk to the end of the terminal where the 19th Personnel Company desk is located in terminal section F. Once you arrive on post, the military member will have a short briefing before you check into lodging. If your pet was able to fly with you on your flight, follow the signs in the luggage carousel area for animal health services. You must have all your pet records handy for inspection. After your records and your pet have been cleared, the animal is all yours.

Sponsor Pick Up - If your sponsor is meeting you, be careful not to follow the military liaisons. They are highly visible and it is easy to get caught up with the flow. Even though they are calling for all military members, you will need to go through the regular lines like any civilian passenger. You will complete the 4 stages of the airport and walk out to the arrival area. Your Sponsor will have a signed Pick Up memo from the 19th Personnel Company Commander or First Sergeant authorizing the PCS Pick Up and the Sponsor should understand that they are required to bring the PCS Soldier directly to the 19th Personnel Company for in-processing prior to taking them to lodging. Sponsor pick up is the best way to really have a stress-free arrival to your new home and is a must if you have pets flying with you.

Individual Transportation – All PCSing Soldiers are required to ride the shuttle bus to Yongsan for in-processing as provided, no one is approved for taxi service nor will they be reimbursed (usually stated in the Soldier's Orders). If you need to go to USAG-Yongsan on your own, go through any of the exit doors. You can take either a taxi (expensive) or the military bus (free) to USAG-Yongsan. If you wish to take the bus, look for signs to Military Reception. If the desk is open, they can tell you when the next bus to USAG-Yongsan is departing. Since you will be in PCS status, you and your family members will have priority above anyone else wishing to ride the bus (aside from others in PCS status). Taxis are located just outside the terminal. The taxis allowed on-post all have English speaking drivers and will have a sticker that says "on-post access" posted in a variety of locations on the outside of the taxi. AAFES authorized taxi's park to the far right as you exit the airport near terminal section F. The AAFES Taxi Stand is in front of Exit Gate 14. All AAFES-authorized taxis have meters and

accept US dollars. If you must take a Korean taxi, have Korean Won. Try to select a cab which has clearly visible identification about both the driver and vehicle. A taxi ride to post will cost you around \$60-\$70, and a van for the family will normally cost between \$70-\$80. AAFES-authorized taxi drivers appreciate and expect a tip whereas the Korean taxi drivers do not expect tips. USAG-Yongsan offers airport shuttle services throughout the day from the Dragon Hill Lodge (www.dragonhilllodge.com). Please check with the concierge and obtain a copy of the schedule. The Capital Hotel, which is located right outside of Gate 6 (Commissary) on USAG-Yongsan, has a shuttle that runs every 20 minutes from 5:30am-11:30pm. The cost about W20,000 (approximately \$20). The shuttle is located near Military Reception exit door 11. The shuttle service employees are very helpful and will assist you getting onto the Capital Hotel Shuttle. The journey will take about 90 minutes with several stops along way. The shuttle is extremely western and the recorded information on the route is in English.

Upon arrival Soldiers will typically be required to present two complete copies of their orders and all amendments; medical and dental records; and DA 31.



Army Community Services (ACS) – Photo by Mary Soergel

IN-PROCESSING

All military personnel are required to in-process shortly after arriving in Korea. Locations for in-processing vary depending upon branch of service. Your military liaison or sponsor should know exactly when and where you will need to go for in-processing. However, the following information is provided for your convenience.

- U.S. Air Force - Members of the Air Force will need to in-process with the Air Force Element (AFELM). Call 723-8538.

- U.S. Army - Army personnel need to in-process at 19th Personnel Company (19PC) across the parking lot from the Dragon Hill Lodge, Bldg (4034), DSN: 723-5461. 2ID personnel and their family member's also in-process through 19PC. The 2ID Liaison NCOIC is the point of contact at DSN: 723-5617. The 19PC program is a four day Newcomers Program. Family members must attend day C and D. Childcare is provided, but must be requested.

- U.S. Navy - Naval personnel begin their time in USAG-Yongsan with the Personnel Support Detachment (PSD) on Main Post. Please call 723-4651.

- U.S. Marine Corps - Marines arriving in Seoul in-process with the Administrative Office on Main Post. For more information, please call 723-7032 or 723-3385.

Family members also have a lot of things to do in the first few days after arriving in Korea. It is highly recommended that you go to Army Community Services Building (ACS) as soon as possible. ACS (Bldg 4106) is behind Popeye's and Burger King.

Be prepared; carry your Identification Card, Ration Control Card, multiple copies of orders, a Power of Attorney, and your passport with you wherever you go for the first two weeks. It is also helpful to call before you go to verify information and to check hours of operation. This can help cut down on your frustration and save valuable time. Detailed information can be found in the Practical Information from A to Z section for many items on the First 30 Days Checklist.

FIRST THIRTY DAYS

WHAT TO DO WITHIN THE FIRST 30 DAYS OF YOUR ARRIVAL

□ **Enroll in D.B.I.D.S.** (Defense Biometric Identification System). The sponsor must be in the system before Family Members can be enrolled. You must have your identification card with you. You need to be in D.B.I.D.S. before you can register your vehicle or receive your ration control card. **All Family Members must be enrolled in D.B.I.D.S.** (19th Personnel Company Building (Bldg 4034), ID card Section). This office operates on a pull a number and wait system, so please be patient. Depending on the time of year, wait time can be 30 minutes.

□ **Obtain a Ration Card** 19th Personnel Company Building (Bldg 4034), ration control section. You will need a copy of the Service Member's orders showing assignment and command sponsorship number, a copy of passport(s) for all family members, and a copy of all ID cards front and back. Service Member must be present to accomplish this task; a Power of Attorney cannot be substituted for the Service Member.

Note: Entry to the PX, Commissary and Chosun Gift Shop require a ration card. During the first two weeks in country, carry orders with Family Members names printed on them for access to above-mentioned purchase points. **Civilian Employees, Retirees and Family Members must have identification cards and ration cards to make purchases. Active Duty Military members may enter and purchase items from the Commissary, PX and Chosen at any time by showing their ID card.** For more information, Ration Control USAG-Yongsan DSN: 738-4612.

□ **Visit Army Community Services (ACS), Building 4106 on South Post** is located behind Popeye's and Burger King (and less than 100 yards from the ground floor back door of the Dragon Hill Lodge). This is where you can take care of many of the items on your checklist. ACS has a great checklist to let you know what needs to be done so be sure to pick one up while you are there. Ask for the Welcome Folder full of Korean Tourism information and the Community Telephone Book. Also sign up for Korean Language Class, Transportation 101 (How to use the Mass Transit in Seoul), and Korean Food Discovery Class.

□ **A3 Visa/SOFA Stamp--Active Duty Family Members, Civilians Employees and their Family Members must have an A3 Visa and SOFA Stamp within 90 days of arrival in country.** Yongsan Client Legal Services at ACS will review

applications for A3 Visa and/or SOFA Stamp and will assist with directions to go to one of the three convenient Seoul Immigration Office locations. Client Legal Services Division assistance is on a walk-in basis during normal duty hours. The Korean Immigration offices are at Sejongno , Mokdong and Osan Air Base. You must have your passport, ID card, copy of identification card (front and back), copy of sponsor's ID card, the Ministry of Justice Supplemental Visa Application Form, and an original Letter of Verification of Assignment to receive the Korean Immigration Stamp. The SOFA Stamp should be valid until your sponsor's DEROS date or the expiration date on the Sponsor's ID card, or the expiration of the individual's passport (maximum of 2 years from the date your A-3 Visa/SOFA stamp is issued). If your A3 Visa and/or SOFA Stamp expires while in Korea, the Visa and Stamp will need to be reissued. Check: <http://8tharmy.korea.army.mil/sja/clientlegalsvc/>. You will find information on the process, detailed directions to Immigration offices, and forms.

□ **Participate in the USAG-Yongsan Spouse & Civilian Newcomer's Orientation** The military sponsor must attend a mandatory 19th Personnel Company (19PC) Orientation packed full of training-required briefings that he/she must attend before reporting to the unit. Family members and civilians may attend one of the ACS coordinated Newcomer's Orientations created to encourage exploration of the USAG-Yongsan Community and Seoul area. The Newcomer's Orientation typically include a Yongsan Windshield Tour, Seoul City Tour, tour of the Namsan Folk Village and lunch at a Korean Restaurant. At the conclusion of the tour, there will be a "mini-Expo" of community agency representatives available for you to pick and choose for your family's needs. The entire family, including children, are encouraged to participate in the Orientation. Free child care is available for children ages 4 and under if prior arrangements are made with ACS. A variety of Newcomer cultural tours occur throughout the year, check with the ACS desk for specific information on scheduled events at DSN 738-7505.

□ **Housing and Furniture** Active duty Service Members must complete the 19PC In-processing program before making a registration appointment at the Housing Division. Command-sponsored Family Members can come to Housing representing the military member within 48 hours of arrival. Family members must have a Power of Attorney. A Housing Brief is required prior to searching for off-post housing. Briefs are held Tuesday and Thursday at 1530 in the 19PC briefing room. For Housing information, stop by the ACS Building (4106), Room 205, DSN 738-4069.

□ **Stop by Transportation** (Incoming Household Goods) ACS Building (4106), Room 120, DSN 738-4818. Check on the estimated arrival date of your hold

baggage, household goods and vehicle. Make sure and give them a local contact number so that they may notify you as items arrive. Track the date of arrival for your vehicle by visiting www.wherismypov.com.

□ **Driver's License** You will need a stateside driver's license, orders, and identification card to take the driving test. You need to study USFK PAM 385-2, "Guide to Safe Driving in Korea" before taking the test. The guide is available from the library, your sponsor, or on the 8th Army's website under Safety/Motor Vehicle Safety. Driver's Testing is located in the ACS Building (4106), Room 235, 738-5568/3235. The USFK Driver's License is required to drive in Korea, even if just on the installation. Tests are by appointment only and done Monday - Thursday 8:00-10:30am. If you pass the test, you return in the afternoon for a safety video, eye chart test and new driving license.

□ **Seoul Vehicle Processing Center (VPC) & Registration** The Seoul VPC is located on the western corner inside Camp Kim, Building C-1230. Call 724-6363 for detailed instructions before you begin. The service member must register the vehicle or the family member must have a Power of Attorney and be registered in D.B.I.D.S. in order to pick up a vehicle. Note: Receiving and registering your vehicle can be a lengthy and complicated process. See vehicles in A to Z.

□ **NEO (Noncombatant Evacuation Operations)** Service members are responsible for obtaining the NEO briefing packet for his/her entire family within the first 30 days after arrival. NEO drills are conducted in the fall and spring to equip family members with specific scenarios in case of an evacuation operation.

□ **TRICARE and the Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital (BAACH)** Otherwise know as 121 Hospital South Post 7005. The BAACH Help Desk is DSN 737-4357. Visit the TRICARE Office to turn in your medical records, register for TRICARE, and complete immunizations if necessary. Call 737-1433. Also see Medical in A to Z.

□ **Drop off Dental Records at the Dental Clinic.** For Active Duty Personnel South Post Dental (Clinic #2) in Bldg 5107, 736-4779 or the Carius Dental Clinic on Main Post Bldg 1665, 725-8271. The Dental Clinic for adult family members is near the hospital and is called Dental Clinic #2. The Dental Clinic for youth family members (Clinic #3) is located behind the Elementary School Cafeteria (on Stoves Avenue) Bldg 3576, 736-5221.

□ **School Registration.** Located in the Army Community Services Building (4106) ground floor, room 121, DSN 738-7707. Be sure to speed up the process and pre-register online (www.korea.pac.dodea.edu) and print the forms before you arrive in the office. When you register your child/children, the following information is required: vaccination records, orders (must have dependent's

names on orders), previous school records, kindergarten and 1st graders need a copy of their birth certificate or passport, and the applications and any supplemental information. High School Students will need to report to room 108 at the High School to sign up for classes with the guidance counselor. This office also has information on School Bus Transportation for eligible families (Hannam Village and off-post). Each school also has new student programs designed to help students meet and make new friends. Seoul American Elementary school (SAES) has Dolphin Delegates, Seoul American Middle School (SAMS) has Bulldog Ambassadors and Seoul American High School (SAHS) has the Student-2-Student Program. The school registrar or transition representative should have the points of contact for these programs. For more information see Schools in the A to Z.

☐ **Stop by Child, Youth and School Services (CYSS) Central Enrollment & Registration** to register children for activities. Army Community Services Building (4106) 738-5036/3001. Sign up for classes, activities, youth sports, and SAS, After School Care. You must bring proof of immunizations, PPD results, orders, and an updated physical before you can participate in any services offered.

☐ **Veterinary Services** - Located on South Post Bldg. 4728 (by the Gas Station) 738-4261/5145. Register your pet and turn in records (need health certificates, rabies vaccination records, and proof of a microchip in your pet). Pets must be registered within 10 days of arrival.

☐ **Cable Service** - This office is located in the Army Community Service Building on the 2nd floor and is a pretty quick process once you have your housing location. They will give you your cable boxes and instructions. Ask for a listing of channels. DSN 738-4310. If you live off post, MWR Cable is not available. Many of the rental agreements for apartments off-post include SKY satellite cable access. Military channels are not available through SKY, but there are many English-Asia stations available.

☐ **Korean Language Class** - ACS has wonderful Korean Language classes. This is a great way to meet new people and get a handle on some of the culture questions you might have. The class is taught by Korean National Contractors and includes Korean cooking classes and culture lessons intertwined with the language lessons. Classes are also available off post at Itaewon Global Village (free) and various universities.

☐ **Self Help** - South Post Bldg. 5274 (between Gate 13 and Collier Field house). If you will be living on post, stop by and see what they have to offer. Call DSN 736-7818. Self help closes early on Mondays.

☐ **Telephone/Internet** The telephone provider you use depends on where you live: If you live in any of the on-post housing areas, you must first establish

line connectivity by visiting the 41st Signal Battalion (Bldg 2320, call 738-6900). The telephone/internet provider for all Yongsan housing areas (including Hannam Village and K-16 Air Base) is LG Dacom or Korea Telecom (KT). LG Dacom office is located on the 1st floor of Moyer Community Activity Center, call 723-7023/7030 or 02-6355-5000. Korea Telecom (KT) is located off post, 02-797-0060. They offer several different plans, including VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) phone numbers. The off-post provider will be Korea Telecom (KT). See Telephone in A to Z for more information. Check with ACS for current providers and more information on options.

Special note: for 2ID personnel and family members. Because policies for command-sponsorship in areas north of Seoul are changing rapidly as the Army moves toward tour normalization in Korea, 2ID families must investigate where they will be living thoroughly. Check with receiving command for most current information.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FROM A-Z

A

ACRONYMS

The following list may be useful during your stay:

19PC	19th Personnel Company
AAFES	Army Air Force Exchange Service
ACS	Army Community Service
AFAP	Army Family Action Plan
AFN-K	American Forces Network-Korea
AFSC	American Forces Spouses Club
AFTB	Army Family Team Building
BAACH	Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital
BOSS	Better Opportunities for Single and Unaccompanied Soldiers
CLASS VI	Package/Liquor Store
CFC	Combined Forces Command
COLA	Cost of Living Allowance
CYSS	Child Youth and School Services
DMZ	Demilitarized Zone
DPW	Directorate of Public Works
DSN	Defense Switching Network
DEROS	Date Estimated Return from Overseas
DoDEA	Department of Defense Education Activity
DoDDS	Department of Defense Dependent School
EML	Environmental Morale Leave
EUSA	Eighth U.S. Army
FED	Far East District
JUSMAG-K	Joint U.S. Military Affairs Group, Korea

KATUSA	Korean Augmentee to the U.S. Army
MWR	Morale, Welfare and Recreation
NEO	Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation
OHA	Overseas Housing Allowance
POV	Privately Owned Vehicle
ROK (A)	Republic of Korea (Army)
SAES/SAMS/SAHS	Seoul American Elementary/Middle /High School
SOFA	Status of Forces Agreement
SUSLAK	Special U.S. Liaison Advisor, Korea
USAG	U.S. Army Garrison
USFK	U.S. Forces Korea
USO	United Services Organization
WRC	Warrior Readiness Center

ADULT EDUCATION

There are many programs available both on and off post. The Education Center (Bldg. 2212 on Main Post, in the same building as the Main Post Office, 723-4290/4286/4298/7783) provides counselors for military and family members. Pamphlets and brochures from the various colleges are also available. Available programs include:

2-year program - Central Texas College 723-4296/4297 (www.pfec.ctcd.edu)

2- and 4-year programs - University of Maryland 723-4300/4295 (www.asia.umuc.edu)

Graduate Programs - University of Phoenix 723-7807 (www.phoenix.edu) / Troy University 723-7508 (www.tsupacific.net)

Off Post - There are many educational programs available in Seoul. Contact the local education counselors for more information.

Korean Language classes: *See Korean Language in A to Z.*

AIR POLLUTION

The major contributor to air pollution in Seoul is automobile emissions. Additionally, a yellow dust or “HwangSa” arrives from the deserts of China, Mongolia and Manchuria (usually in the dry spring months). The small dust particles in the air can cause or exacerbate respiratory problems, eye conditions, and eczema. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued guidelines for outdoor activity levels based on measured levels of dust particles in the air. People with heart or lung disease, older adults and children are at the highest risk. For dust concentration levels above 200, high-risk individuals

should try to avoid outdoor physical activity. All others should avoid prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion. For levels above 300, those most at risk should remain indoors and keep their activity levels low. Others should avoid all unnecessary outdoor activity. To minimize the adverse effects of “yellow dust,” wash exposed parts of the body with soap and water after coming indoors and seek medical attention promptly if you experience adverse health effects.

The Korean Meteorological Administration (KMA) (www.kma.go.kr, click on English) issues an information notice at dust level concentrations above 200, a watch at concentrations above 300 and a warning at concentrations above 500. This is a weather website so it will only contain Yellow Dust information during the spring season. To learn more about yellow dust, contact your local health care provider or visit the Environmental Protection Agency web site at www.epa.gov/airnow. To learn more about yellow dust, contact your local health care provider or visit the Environmental Protection Agency web site at www.epa.gov/airnow. Yellow dust advisories are aired on Channel 3 and the USFK and USAG-Yongsan web sites: www.usfk.mil and www.korea.amedd.army.mil/webapp/yellowsand/default.asp.

ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES/RESOURCES

Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Service (Bldg 3792, South Post, next to the Chapel, 738-4579) This organization also offers courses and prevention groups in areas of life skills (self-esteem, relationships and social skills), parenting and teen anger management. Counselors are also available in the middle school and high school.

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) (Bldg 5216, 736-5187/3291) The center offers rehabilitation counseling, individual and group therapy, education and smoking cessation for active duty, DoD civilians and family members.

Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous (736-5187, www.AAinKorea.org), Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)

Alcohol Treatment Center (Bldg T7163, South Post next to the hospital, 737-5208)

AMERICAN RED CROSS

The primary mission of the American Red Cross in Korea (Bldg 2259, Moyer Recreation Center, Room 215, DSN 738-3670/Fax 738-9012, Comm. 02-7918-3670/Fax 02-7918-9012) is to serve military personnel and their families, improve the quality of human life, enhance self reliance and concern for others

and help people avoid, prepare for and cope with emergencies. The Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital and its clinics host a wide spectrum of Red Cross volunteers. Potential opportunities include leadership, administrative, and casework positions. American Red Cross services include health and safety classes such as CPR, First Aid and AED classes, Life Guarding and Water Safety, Babysitter Training, Instructor Training, Pet First Aid and Disaster Services. Available classes vary by community. Please contact your local area Red Cross station for class availability and cost.

Armed Forces Emergency Service (AFES): The Red Cross provides rapid communications between military members, DoD civilians and their families regarding death, serious illness, child care breakdowns, birth, health and welfare reports, and other personal or family problems. Family members back home should call their local Red Cross to request emergency message service (to locate a local chapter, visit www.redcross.org and enter the zip code in the space provided or call toll free 1-877-272-7337). Your family will need your current rank, social security number, and military address for the request. Answers to frequently asked questions are listed below.

How do I send a Message?

For requests between 8am-4pm, call your installation Red Cross Office. After hours, contact the USAG-Yongsan Office 738-3670. A caseworker will process your message. To expedite service, please provide as much pertinent information related to the situation as possible (i.e., local point of contact, name and phone numbers, doctor’s name and phone number, location of patient, your 1SG’s or Company Commander’s name and phone numbers).

What do I do if I get a message?

For emergency messages, your 1SG will be called to copy its contents and deliver them to you. If a non-emergency message arrives every effort will be made to locate you in order to deliver its contents to you directly. Once you have received your message, discuss the situation with your chain of command.

Will the service pay my way home?

If you have been placed on Emergency Leave with Funded Travel Orders, the military will pay for your plane ticket to a port of entry on the west coast. Any follow-on travel will be your responsibility. Ordinary Leave under Emergency Conditions requires that you pay for the entire plane ticket. Contact your chain of command regarding travel regulations for your family.

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE (ACS)

The ACS is the center from programs informing and assisting military, DoD civilians and their family members (Bldg 4106, South Post across from the

Dragon Hill Lodge and behind the Burger King, 738-7505, Mon-Fri 8am – 5pm). The ACS provides directions to many sites in Seoul and offers Welcome Packets to newcomers. They will also send the Welcome Packets to incoming personnel upon request. They also offer language classes, parenting classes and other cultural programs. Be sure to check their Facebook Page: Yongsan Army Community Service for the latest offerings. A monthly calendar for available classes and programs is available at <http://yongsan.korea.army.mil/ACS> and click on the calendar link to the right of the page. The ACS offers several programs including: the Newcomers' Orientation and City Tour, Lending Closet, Cross Cultural School for Korean spouses, as well as those listed below:

Army Emergency Relief (AER) (738-4655, or www.aerhq.org) offers financial assistance for rent, food, utilities, emergency travel expenses and other verified emergencies. AER also provides scholarships for college students and spouses.

Army Family Team Building (AFTB) (738-3617) was created for family members to help make military life easier. Open to all military service and DoD civilian family members, AFTB is a support program that offers free classes on such topics as stress management, leadership, problem-solving, military benefits and time management.

Employment Readiness (738-8977 or Hannam Office 723-8293) offers assistance with resume writing, employment opportunities and job preparation.

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) (ACS Bldg 4106, 738-8861/5311) offers information, referral and resource identification for military and civilian family members with special needs. The EFMP committee meets the first Thursday of each quarter to discuss EFMP issues. It sponsors monthly support groups and activities. It also coordinates medical, educational and community support and personal services with other military agencies.

Family Advocacy Program (FAP) (738-5150/5151) is designed to promote effective family functioning. Its goal is to prevent and educate families about child/spousal abuse and neglect through support programs such as stress management, counseling referral and crisis intervention.

Financial Readiness (738-7505) offers consumer affairs assistance, information and advocacy, financial counseling budgeting assistance, checkbook management and personal financial management classes. Group counseling classes are available.

New Parent Support (723-7391) offers several program including childbirth preparation classes, breastfeeding support groups, Boots and Booties class for expectant soldiers, parenting classes, infant care, single parent support and a children's playgroup (currently at Hannam Village, ages 3 and under).

Relocation Readiness (738-7999/7186) provides relocation information to

military personnel and families. The services of this program include newcomer orientations, welcome packets, SOFA stamp assistance, passports and visa assistance, non-command-sponsored family member assistance, the loan closet, emergency food bank, English and Korean Language classes, and American Sign Language. Contact this office if your group would like to reserve meeting space in the ACS building.

Volunteers Program (738-7510 for Volunteer Coordinator) directs interested parties to volunteer opportunities across the installation.

ARTS & CRAFTS

The Yongsan Arts and Crafts Center (BLDG 4253/4254 South Post, near the Shoppette, 738-4750, 9am – 7 pm Daily/closed Tues) offers classes in ceramics, photography, painting, flower arranging, paper doll crafting and others. . They also have unpainted ceramic pieces that you or your children can buy and paint on site. The center offers a variety of craft classes for children and offer birthday party activities. The frame shop, on the second floor, will mount and frame any pictures and paintings at a reasonable fee. A computerized long-arm quilting machine has thousands of patterns for quilting. Trained staff is able to do your quilting based on an hourly rate and type of thread used. Batting is available for purchase at the center. The center also has a well-equipped wood shop and the equipment is available for personal projects. The staff is available to direct one to any type of art or craft supplies that are needed. Just go into the area marked 'Sales Room' and ask for assistance. Monthly class offerings are listed in the Community Connection Magazine.

AUTOMOBILE

(See Vehicle)

B

BABY ITEMS

Though the PX and Furniture Store carry most baby items, choice is extremely limited. If you want a particular stroller, baby jogger or high chair, purchase it prior to departing the U.S. and ship it in your household shipment. Most online vendors (including eBay sellers) will not ship large items to APO addresses. If they do, the shipping costs can be more than the actual item purchased. Baby furniture items such as cribs, mattresses, changing tables and rocking chairs are not supplied by the Furnishings Management Office and can be expensive to purchase in Korea. Infant and toddler clothing stocks in the PX are quickly depleted. Newborn clothing can be very expensive at the department stores. The PX has a maternity section but, like infant clothing, items sell out quickly. The thrift store often has gently used maternity clothes and baby items in stock. For more information, see the Shopping section for local shopping ideas. Also, check out the Facebook Page: The Yongsan Flea Market.

BANKING/CHECK CASHING

Community Bank operates the banking facilities on all posts and bases in Korea with full service banking: direct deposit, won conversion, auto loans (new and used) and ATM access. The Community Bank ATM card offers 24/7 banking with no fees for withdrawing U.S. dollars, Korean won or balance inquiries. Community Bank offers 13 full-time branches, two part-time offices and a network of 51 ATMs on the peninsula.

Yongsan Branches: Main Post (Four Seasons Mini-Mall, 724-4724/4725 Tues-Fri 9:30am-5pm, Sat 9:30am-3:30pm, and payday Mondays); South Post Dragon Hill Lodge (738-3520/5540, Mon-Fri 9am-3pm).

ATM locations include the Dragon Hill Lodge, PX Community Bank, Camp Coiner, the back entrance of the Moyer Community Activities Center, Hannam Village (next to the mini market at the main entrance), across from the Chosun Gift Shop, outside the Commissary and inside the Brian Allgood Hospital.

Navy Federal Credit Union (Bldg 1479, between the Main Post food court and Trent Gym, 725-4056/3282, Mon-Fri 10am-4pm) offers online banking, credit and debit cards, auto loan, line of credit, signature loans, CDs and IRAs.

There are no ATM machines available.

Bank Cards: You may obtain cash or make account inquiries with your credit card, or any other ATM card which displays the AFFN or CIRRUS Network logo. Ask your bank about service fees that may apply. Many banks will not charge ATM or currency conversion fees for members on active-duty overseas orders.

Cashing Checks: Many people elect to keep their checking account at a U.S. bank or credit union. The Community Bank will cash a check for up to \$500 on a stateside account for a fee (no third party checks). More may be available with the manager's approval. You may cash checks for up to \$300 at PX cash registers and at the various clubs if you are a member. The 175th Finance office will cash only the first month's rent and security deposit checks. Note: The banks on post observe both U.S. and Korean holidays.

USAA: Call and set up a system for local withdrawals at ATMs depending on your needs. The ATM restrictions usually allow only \$500 withdrawals at one time, so you would need to make multiple withdrawals depending on your needs.

BARBER SHOPS

There are several barbershops on Yongsan. Current locations are Brian Allgood Community Hospital (Bldg 7005, 737-5285, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm); Camp Coiner Mini Mall (Bldg 1094, 724-5169, Mon-Fri 9am-7pm/Sat 10am-5pm); JUSMAG-K/Navy Club (Bldg 1575, Main Post 725-6555, Mon-Fri 8:30am-6pm); Main Post Mini Mall/Four Seasons (Bldg 1447, 723-7858, 9am-8pm daily); South Post (Mini Mall/Shoppette, 738-8176, Mon-Fri 9am-7pm); and South Post (Bldg 4035, behind One Stop Processing Center/19th Personnel Company, 738-6976, Mon-Sat 9am-6pm).

BEAUTY

Salons: There are several nice salons on post that offer manicures, pedicures, massages and hairstyling. Locations: Dragon Hill Lodge Clippers (738-2222 ext. 6810, Mon-Sat 9am-7pm/Sun 10am-7pm); Main Beauty Shop (Mini Mall/Four Seasons, 723-2066, 9am-8pm daily); Stylique (behind the Yongsan Fire Station on South Post, 738-4520, Mon-Sat 9am-7pm/Sun 9am-6pm); and Hannam Village (Bldg K, 723-4601, Mon-Sat 9am-6pm). Prices vary but expect to pay U.S. prices; ask for pricing beforehand. There are also many salons in Seoul; however, some are currently off limits by order of the area commander, so check before venturing off-post.

Products: If you have any special hair care products, check the online

websites to see if your product can be ordered and shipped to an APO. Two sites that many spouses have had good luck with are www.aveda.com and www.hairretail.com. If your favorite products are not available for order, try to bring some with you. Even though some products can be purchased off post, they can be hard to find and very expensive.

BLACK MARKET

Under the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), the United States is allowed to import certain products, duty free, for the Commissary and Exchange services. These products are strictly for the personal use of authorized personnel. Black Marketing is the illegal sale of those goods into the Korean economy. This practice can be cause for severe disciplinary action. The original goal of ration control was, and still is today, to control black marketing. Report anyone who is engaged in this practice to the Black Marketing Hotline: 738-5111.

BOSS

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (Bldg 4253, 738-5466/5254/5419 for program manager) is a program dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for single or geographically single Soldiers of all ranks. Soldiers and MWR advisors work with Commanders, Command Sergeants Major and First Sergeants to provide leisure programs and help direct the resolution of quality of life issues.

BOWLING CENTER

Yongsan Lanes (Main Post, 723-7830/5820) offers numerous specials and bowling leagues, including a youth league. The center can also be used for birthday parties or special events. Yongsan Lanes Food Court features fast food items and some Korean dishes.

BUSES (On and Off Post) : *See Transportation in A to Z.*

BUSINESS CARDS

It is customary in the Korean culture to give a business card to a new acquaintance. They also come in handy when moving to a new location. You may want to bring some cards with you from the States with your name, email and new APO address. You can write in phone numbers etc, as you get them. To help during in-processing, keep a card for yourself and write important numbers you may need on the back (i.e., taxi service, CDC, Youth Services). There are business card vendors located in the Moyer Community Activity Center and the

Gallery (723-5347). Oriental Press (Main Post, 738-5005 or oppress@kornet.net) also prints business cards with information in English on one side and Hangul on the other.

If you have cards made in Korea, use a reputable printer or you might find yourself having the cards reprinted. It helps to type the information to give to the printer.

C

CARPETS

Very few quarters or apartments have carpeting. The floors in most government quarters are linoleum over concrete and can be very cold. Off-post apartments, in contrast, generally have heated floors. Due to lack of carpets and rugs available in Korea, consider sending carpets and rugs in your HHG shipment. For more information see “Shopping” section for local purchase options.

CELL PHONES

Korea is the most wired country in the world. Note: American cell phones will not work in Korea (and vice versa). Some Korean cell phone plans also include calls to and from the States at reasonable prices, so check your options before you buy. In addition, your Korean cell phone will work throughout the country (except at the DMZ) including subways and most buildings. The one frustrating dead zone is in the hilly area on post, which encompasses Watkins Ridge and the gas station.

Important Note: *The U.S. Military and the Korean government require drivers to use a “hands free” device (NO HEADSETS). If you must take a call while driving, find a safe place to pull over and take the call.*

Where to Buy a Phone: There is a concession stand in the PX. New and used phones are available, ranging in price from \$50 to \$500. The sales people are very helpful and plans vary with the service and minutes you require. A basic plan starts for as little as \$10 per month plus the cost of the phone. Read all service agreements carefully, some plans charge for all calls made to cell phones operated by other service providers.

The Second Hand Rose Thrift Store sells used phones (with pre-programmed number and charger) for around \$25.00.

The Business Center in the Dragon Hill Lodge and the ONE STOP Center (U.S. Embassy Association Bldg S-8105 792-6695, above Starbucks) sell new and used cell phones and plans. The new phones at the ONE STOP Center are less expensive (prices begin around \$50), but both locations offer many different plans (teenager plans, roll over minutes, roll over text, Bluetooth world roaming, etc.). Connections are usually same-day and the staff will program your phone in English. You can also choose your own 010 number here. The ONE STOP Center also services and repairs computers and laptops, and offers fax, photocopying, wireless internet and designing services and making military coins.

Payment: It is very easy to set up a monthly billed phone service on-post for cell phone plans. Prepaid time/phone cards to program into the phone are another convenient option. More time can be purchased and added, or have several months programmed in at a time (usually W10,000 minimum per month). Once you have used up your minutes you cannot make outgoing calls until you add more (you can still receive calls). Several businesses on post sell phone minutes (e.g., the PX concession and the DHL Business Center) and they will program your phone for you. Ask for details about programming cards and expiration dates when purchasing your phone.

CHILD YOUTH AND SCHOOL SERVICES (CYSS)

The CYSS Yongsan South Post and Hannam Village services children/youth from 6 weeks to 18 years. Programs include the Child Development Center (CDC), School-Age Services (SAS), Middle School/Teen Centers, Youth Sports and SKIES Unlimited Instructional Classes. Registration is open to family members of U.S. Military, DoD civilians, N.A.F. and U.S. Embassy employees who are USFK ID cardholders. Call to verify current enrollment requirements (usually includes a physical fitness form signed by a pediatrician and current immunization records).

To register, visit the CYSS Central Enrollment Registry Office (ACS Bldg 4106, 736-5036/3001, Mon-Fri 8am-5pm). Priority of placement for children in the Full-day CDC program and the School-Age Services (SAS) is to children from dual/single parent military families and dual DoD working civilians (per para 1-6, AR 608-10).

CDC (Bldg 4280, 738-3406/3407, front desk Mon-Fri 5am-6pm) offers full-day care (Mon-Fri 5:45am-6pm), hourly care, part day preschool (8:30-11:30am MWF,T/TH, or all 5 days) and Sure Start/Kindergarten before and after school care. Hourly care (8am-2pm daily) is provided thru the CDC, but held at the 19th Personnel Company Building. Before reservations can be made, the child must

be registered with CYSS and a 10 or 20 visit pass must be purchased at the CYSS office. To make reservations call the CDC from 0700 - 1800.

SAS (Bldg 4211, 738-4707) offers before and after-school care and activities for grades 1-5.

Middle School Center (Bldg 4215, South Post, 738-4557/2310) serves grades 6-8.

Teen Center (Bldg 4270, South Post, next to the Family Fun Park, 738-8113, Mon-Fri 2-8pm/Sat 1-8pm) serves grades 9-12.

Hannam Middle School/Teen Center (Bldg 6150, Hannam Village housing area, 723-8765, Mon-Wed 3-7pm/ Sat 1-9pm) Serves grades 6-12.

Youth Sports (register in Bldg 4106, 738-4581/811, or contact CYSS, 736-1536) are available year round and include baseball, T-ball, softball, volleyball, basketball, flag football, swimming and soccer. Sports clinics are offered during the summer months.

SKIES Unlimited Instructional Classes are offered year round and include martial arts, piano lessons, driver's education, dance, gymnastics, and American Sign Language.

Volunteering for CYSS programs: CYSS is always in need of adult volunteers and coaches for the various youth programs scheduled. Call 738-4581/8117 or 738-7510. Background checks are required for volunteers and this process may take some time. If you wish to participate with your child, start the paperwork early!

CHOSUN GIFT SHOP

The Chosun Gift Shop (CSG) is a main fundraising arm of the American Forces Spouses Club. Operated by employees and loyal volunteers, the CGS currently offers carefully selected merchandise from all over Asia such as China, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand and possibly others. Our profits are given to the American and Korean Welfare Funds of the AFSC for distribution to worthy causes.

The CGS is located in building 4223 on South Post (near the furniture store). Hours of operations are Wednesday and Saturday 10am to 3pm. A military ID and ration control privileges are needed for entry. To volunteer in our fun store or if you have questions stop by or email chosunmanager@yahoo.com. Find us on Facebook too!

CHRISTMAS TREES

The Boy Scouts sell live-cut trees imported from the U.S. They presell the

C trees that usually arrive in November and are distributed through advertised locations on Main and South Post. Artificial trees are available at the AAFES Four Seasons Store in the Mini Mall on Main Post. Both live and artificial trees are available on the economy, though they are much more expensive than those available on post. The Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop (Bldg 4222, across from the Chosun Gift Shop) usually has a selection of artificial trees along with a varied assortment of ornaments and other Christmas decorations at very reasonable prices. Christmas tree stands are in short supply so you may consider placing a stand in your HHG shipment.

CLAIMS

A claim is a written demand for a specific amount that you calculate is suitable reimbursement for the replacement of your lost or damaged goods. Generally, the transportation service provider (TSP) is required to replace any item that is lost or destroyed with a new item or pay the cost of a new item of the same type and quality without making a depreciation deduction. However, damaged items may be repaired by the TSP if repair is less than the full replacement value of the item. Repair will be to the extent necessary to restore the item to its condition when received by the TSP. Regulations change often, so contact Military Claims office, Legal Services Division (2nd floor, ACS Bldg 4106, 738-8111). They will advise you on how to file a claim with your TSP.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

American Forces Spouses Club (AFSC)

(<http://americanforcesspousesclubkorea.weebly.com/> select Membership Form to join) is open to all military, civilian, and DoD spouses stationed in Korea. Associate membership is available for retired and windowed members of the U.S. Armed Forces, ARC, USO and special service personnel who are authorized with SOFA/MOFA. Meetings are held monthly (September through May) at the Dragon Hill Lodge. A welcome coffee is held in early fall and new members can join throughout the year. Volunteers from this club operate and staff the Chosun Gift Shop. The Chosun Chatter is a monthly publication of the AFSC and the group updates, edits, and publishes The Seoul Survivor annually. AFSC sponsors an annual auction and other funding raising events which require a great deal of volunteer support. JOIN US! The AFSC also sponsors activities and clubs which can include book club, bunko, tennis, hiking, running, international cooking, lunch bunch, needlework circle, scrapbooking, shop-n-tour, etc., based on member interests. Membership forms are also available at club meetings.

and at the Chosun Gift Shop.

American Women's Club (AWC) (www.awckorea-seoul.org, or visit the Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop and pick up a pamphlet) Regular membership is open to all U.S. citizens and associate membership to all other persons. The AWC provides many social and cultural activities for expatriate women and families in Seoul. It sponsors newcomer coffees (normally held the second Tuesday of the month) as well as monthly lunches featuring different themes and speakers. A very popular activity is one where members can go out of Seoul (all expenses paid) for a day to interact with school children in the morning and in the afternoon tour and shop.

The AWC also operates The Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop - (see Thrift Shop in A-Z). The proceeds from the shop are used to support AWC charities in both the USFK and Korean Communities.

Church Clubs and Bible Studies See Religious Activities in A-Z.

Military Clubs There are a number of clubs throughout post. Some, such as the Main Post Club (723-5678/5685) and the Navy Club (725-7731/Food Delivery Service: 725-6108/6114), are open to everyone. The Hartell House is a members' club, although all are welcome to dine (discounts are offered for members).

Royal Asiatic Society (RAS) (raskb@kornet.net, 02-763-9483, www.raskb.com) is a non-profit organization for those interested in knowing more about Korea. The RAS programs address different aspects of Korean life and culture, such as dance, music and mask drama. Events are free and you are encouraged to bring friends with you. The RAS also sponsors excellent tours and bi-monthly lectures (all of which are announced in the local papers). Members receive discounts on the various RAS tours to places of historic and scenic interest and on the Society's publications that include some excellent books on Korea.

Seoul International Women's Club (SIWA) Seoul International Women's Association is one of the largest organizations dedicated to expatriate women living in the greater Seoul area. There are currently over 50 nationalities represented. In addition to the Monthly Coffee Mornings and New Comers Welcome, some of the activities are Tours (museums, skiing, rafting, hiking trips, discovery of Seoul, etc) Classes (languages, arts and crafts, cooking, games) as well as evening or weekend activities. The Welfare arm of the organization puts together a Diplomatic bazaar and raises funds for Korean Charities. There is also a Working Women's network and members receive the bi-monthly magazine Discovery. The membership fee is modest (about 50,000 KRW) and the benefits are great. This is one of the quickest ways to get to know Seoul and make friends from different horizons.

For more information: www.siwapage.com

Special Interest Clubs: There are several groups on post formed by people with specific interests such as quilting or other needlework. These groups meet at various locations. Check cable channel 3 on AFN, bulletin boards, the Morning Calm Newspaper, the internet (Yahoo! Groups has Yongsan interest group links), or through word of mouth. If you have an interest, there is probably a group for you. Or... start one!

COMMISSARY

The Yongsan Commissary is the largest overseas commissary under one roof (South Post near Gate 6, 736-7070/3311, Tues-Sun 10am-7pm, Thurs/Fri until 8pm; closed Mon, all U.S. Federal holidays and several Korean holidays). A smaller commissary is located in Hannam Village (K bldg, 723-3892/6412, Sun 1-5pm, Mon/Wed/Thurs 10am-6pm, Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 11am-6pm, closed Tues). The commissary offers Early Bird Shopping Tues-Fri 7-10am for 15 items or less. Patrons must present a valid military ID and ration card to enter the store (visitors are NOT allowed to enter). If you do not have your ration card yet, you must bring your orders, which are good only for your first 14 days in country. The Command Unique Tracking System (CUTS) assists USFK law enforcement agencies in collecting data for inventory control and to curb black-marketing. For local commissary information visit www.commissaries.com and search the Geographical List under Locations. This site offers alphabetical and by-aisle product information, store hours, upcoming events, and much more! Also, check out www.militarycoupons.com. You can use coupons up to 6 months after the expiration date.

COMMUNITY SERVICES/RESOURCES

Cross Cultural Training & Counseling Center (Hannam Village, Bldg H, Room 104, 723-3239) offers marriage, couples and group counseling as well as parenting classes.

Educational & Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS) (738-4422) is designed to assist parents of children from birth to age three. Free developmental screenings are offered to assess whether children are functioning at developmentally appropriate levels. A variety of services and programs is available.

CURTAINS/MINI-BLINDS

Housing supplies mini-blinds for all quarters on South Post and Hannam

Village. They come in various shades of off white. You must supply your own curtains.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

It is very important to know both U.S. and Korean customs regulations (www.customs.go.kr/eng). The Korean government allows all U.S. Government employees (civilian and military) coming to Korea for an extended duty assignment to import certain goods duty free. This covers your household shipments and any items shipped to you through the APO system, providing they are for your own personal use. There are, however, some restrictions. You may not import the following items:

- Weapons (including ornamental replicas) such as firearms, knives, explosives or hazardous substances. Firearms for hunting may be cleared; speak with your travel management office for details.
- All illegal narcotics.
- Protected live animals and plants or articles manufactured from them. Examples: tigers, leopards, elephants, ostrich, owls, cobras, tortoises, crocodiles, coral, etc. or any part or products made from them (this includes deer antlers).
- Precious metal (excluding ordinary golden rings, pendants, etc.) and securities.
- Plants, vegetables and agricultural products.

Upon return to the United States you will be allowed duty free entry for your household goods, providing all of the items you have purchased in Korea are for your own personal use. However, you will not be allowed to take back the following items:

- Drugs not approved by the FDA.
- Goods that violate trademark or copyright protections (fake designer clothes, watches, toys, etc.).
- Heritage Items and Cultural Property unless you have the proper export permits.
- Dog and cat fur, fish, wildlife and firearms.

People traveling to the States as a “returning resident” for people on TDY, vacation or returning from a visit in Korea may carry back \$800 in foreign manufactured items duty free. Children and infant travelers are entitled to the same dollar amount as the adults for duty free goods. Families travel under a combined total amount (a family of four is allotted \$3,200 total). Also, under current regulations, you and your visitors can mail up to \$200 worth of merchandise for personal use and up to \$100 worth of gifts to the States duty

free per day. Additionally, there are many items, such as fine art and household effects which are considered duty free no matter the value, and will not be charged against your total. Visit the U.S. Customs website for further information (www.customs.gov, select Travel, then Know Before You Go).

D

D

DELIVERY SERVICE

A-Frame Delivery will pick up and deliver large household items for a fee of around \$35 (AAFES Furniture Store, South Post, 738-5051/5052).

DENTAL SERVICES

Patients receive dental treatment in Korea through a combination of in-house care in military clinics and referral to Preferred Host Nation Providers. Because the DENTAC mission encompasses Soldier readiness throughout the peninsula, family member dental care in military clinics is limited. While there is some degree of space-available in-house family member care, the majority of family member care occurs through a network of Preferred Host Nation Providers. Selected providers practice dentistry in line with US standards, maintain modern facilities, engage in infection control and sterilization protocols in accordance with US standards and Center of Disease Control guidance. They sometimes accept UCCI insurance in lieu of up front payment from the patient. The DENTAC strongly encourages all sponsors to ensure coverage of their family members through participation in the TRICARE Dental Program. Their website, www.tricare dental program.com, provides up-to-date dental information.

Active-duty family members comprise the only Other-Than-Active-Duty category that may obtain routine space-available care in military dental clinics. However, the DENTAC will always provide emergency care to address pain, infection, or trauma to members of all beneficiary categories. Patients may seek after-hours emergency dental care by reporting to the emergency room at the local military hospital or treatment facility.

Yongsan Dental Clinics for Active Duty Personnel South Post Dental (Clinic

#2) in Bldg 5107, 736-4779 or the Carius Dental Clinic on Main Post Bldg 1665, 725-8271. The Dental Clinic for adult family members is near the hospital and is called Dental Clinic #2. The Dental Clinic for youth family members (Clinic #3) is located behind the Elementary School Cafeteria (on Stoves Avenue) Bldg 3576, 736-5221.

The TRICARE Dental Office at Yongsan Garrison is located in the Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital, Room 1150. Contact the S. Korean TRICARE dental representative, Mr. Suh Kyu Ho kyu.suh@amedd.army.mil DSN 736-5051/COMM 0505-736-5051, for further information regarding insurance and off-post referrals. Turn right after the main entrance/reception desk. Mr. Suh's office is in the first hallway on the right. For additional information, visit www.korea.amedd.army.mil.

Several Korean dentists come highly recommended and have modern and up to date equipment and practices. Check with neighbors and local advertizing for contact information. Preferred providers will file appropriate forms with TRICARE.

DISEASES

Tuberculosis is present on the Korean peninsula. Each year about 30,000 cases of active TB are reported. To test for this disease, have a PPD (Purified Protein Derivative for tuberculosis infection) prior to coming to Korea, every year while in Korea, and just prior to leaving Korea. This is a mandatory requirement for Active Duty service members and highly recommended for all others. DoDDS and Child Youth and School Services require current proof of PPD testing for registration.

Vector-Borne Diseases are similar to those in the U.S.; diseases transmitted by mosquitoes, mites, ticks and rodents are present in Korea.

Vivax Malaria is transmitted by mosquitoes and is present at relatively low levels, primarily in areas north of Seoul and near the DMZ. For protection, military personnel should use repellents on exposed skin when in malaria risk areas during hours when mosquitoes are present. As mosquitoes can also bite through clothing, DEET repellent spray can be applied to the outer garments for protection. Soldiers should use permethrin impregnated ACUs during the malaria season.

Common House Mosquito (Culex. pipiens) is often found in abundance on military installations, including Yongsan Garrison. In Korea it is not attributed to the transmission of any disease. Populations breed in standing water on and off post and in government housing complexes, making pesticide applications less effective. Mosquitoes are more prevalent at night; they enter houses through

air conditioning systems or any small opening (e.g., under the door and through the drains). Bed nets, drain covers and indoor space sprays (available from the military self help supply facility) are often effective. One Korean product that seems effective is called MOGSOL (needs a plug adaptor) and is available off post at grocery stores.

D DOG PARK

A Dog Park/Playground (5am-10pm daily) is located beside the Pet Care Center near Gate 13 and has two large fenced areas designated for you to exercise and play with your pets off the leash. Please observe the rules of 'petiquette' posted in the park. (Owners are responsible and liable for their pets' actions; owners must pick-up and dispose of all pet waste; aggressive pets or pets in heat are not allowed in the park; pet owners may have no more than two dogs with them per visit). This is a wonderful place for those living both on and off-post to exercise and socialize their dogs. It is also a great place for dog owners to socialize.

DRAGON HILL LODGE

The Dragon Hill Lodge is one of five Armed Forces Recreation Centers (from U.S: 011-822-7918-2222, Fax 011-822-790-1576; from Korea: 790-0016/Fax 790-1576). Email reservation requests to reservations@dragonhilllodge.com or write to Dragon Hill Lodge, Reservations Dept. Unit 15335, APO, AP 96205-5335. Reservations can also be made online at www.dragonhilllodge.com. Personnel in PCS status have priority and may make reservations one year in advance. Located in the center of Yongsan Garrison, it is the hub of activity for those living in or visiting Seoul. The hotel has 394 guest rooms, 6 restaurants and 2 lounges. A hotel guestroom contains a queen size bed, a sleeper sofa, refrigerator and microwave oven, TV with MWR cable, DVD/VCR player, ironing board, coffee maker, fireproof safe and a complete set of utensils for in-room dining (cribs are available at no extra charge). Market Square, the hotel's retail shopping area, offers a range of stores including a PX Shoppette, Flower Shop, Dynasty Furniture, clothing, Exchange New Car Sales, dry cleaners, beauty shop, cyber café, car rental, local tours and much more. The DHL Children's Park is a great place for the youngsters to play.

DRIVER'S LICENSE

If you plan to drive in Korea, even solely on military installations, you must have a USFK license (you may use your stateside license to legally drive in Korea

for the first 30 days after your arrival). Your USFK license, along with a valid stateside license, will allow you to drive throughout Korea. There are various categories of driver's licenses in Korea, but most personnel will only need a USFK license. All applicants are required to take a written test regarding Korean traffic rules. Get a copy of the manual from the Driver's Testing Office (ACS Bldg 4106, 738-5568/4592) or download A Drivers Study Guide for Safe Driving in Korea (English Version) from yongsan.korea.army.mil (family members do not need to know the Military Drivers section). Tests are by appointment only; call to schedule.

Motorcycle/moped owners must complete an Army-approved Motorcycle Safety Course to receive a USFK Motorcycle or Moped License and Motorcycle Safety Foundation Experienced Rider Course or Motorcycle Riders Course Completion Card (consider taking this course before you arrive due to the lack of course availability in Korea).



Dragon Hill Lodge – Photo by Mary Soergel

E

EMBASSY INFORMATION

Most countries maintain an embassy or consulate in Seoul. They can be very helpful in providing you with travel information for their country and will assist in any visa arrangements if you are not traveling with a group that is handling details for you. The embassies can also tell you of any necessary vaccinations/immunizations required for travel in their country. Do not expect the embassy to warn you of potential difficulties/dangers of travel in their country; most try to encourage tourism. Check with the U.S. Embassy for travel advisories for specific countries. The Community Help Book or post phone book (obtain a copy at the ACS building) has the phone numbers for embassies from many countries. Check with the Yongsan library or the American Embassy (721-4114, Commercial 02-397-4114 or www.asktheconsul.org.) for any current telephone numbers or addresses you may need.

The U.S. Embassy Association (USEA) exists not only for the American Embassy community but also for Military Members and Civilians assigned to or visiting USAG-Yongsan (Bldg 8105, Yongsan South Post next to Starbucks, from U.S. 011-822-7918-6124; from Korea DSN 738-6124/Commercial 02-397-4487/Fax 796-9488, or www.useaseoul.com, Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm, closed on all American and Korean holidays). The USEA can accommodate many of your needs, such as a comfortable and quiet TDY suite at a low rate (\$100) on Yongsan Garrison. The TDY suite guestrooms contain a queen size bed, sitting room, kitchenette, full bath, cable TV, a DSN telephone and Internet service. The USEA also offers Event Hall rentals for official functions or private parties, for either formal or informal functions. Several options are available which are guaranteed to meet the needs of your meetings and special events. USEA logo items are available for sale in the Main Office. USEA vendors include the Business Center, Quiznos, Starbucks, and Fuji Restaurant (sushi).

EMERGENCIES See *American Red Cross*.

ENHANCED SECURITY PEDESTRIAN GATES (ESPG)

The Enhanced Security Pedestrian Gates (ESPGs) are unmanned walk-through gates for gaining entry onto and exiting post. This system continues to be enhanced to better serve our community.

To utilize the ESPG, swipe your ID card with the bar code to the left. Once you see the green entry light, step inside and place the finger you registered with Defense Biometrics Identification System (DBIDS) on the fingerprint reader. If you have bags, hold them in front of you. Leave your finger on the reader until the screen says “Enter the Site.” If the fingerprint is rejected, press the Exit button for one second to leave the booth and try again.

Some points to keep in mind: If your card is not accepted multiple times, you will need to get your card replaced. If your fingerprint cannot be read after numerous attempts, stop by DBIDS in 19th Personnel Company and have your fingerprints retaken. If you are at the booth with small children, alert the guard by using the outside intercom call box. Do not use the fingerprint reader and ignore “Leave the booth” on the screen. Once you’ve spoken with the guard over the intercom, they will override the door and allow entry.

Be prepared in case you are denied access. You can walk over to a manned gate, like Gate 1/the Dragon Hill Lodge Gate or Gate 13/the South Post Visitor Center Gate, which are open 24/7. As a last resort, you can call an AAFES taxi at 1544-9080. If you use a local cab, you can call the AAFES taxi service and they can translate for you, or you can call 02-120 on your cell phone to speak with a translator provided by the Seoul Metropolitan Government.

For more information and to view ESPG usage videos, please visit USAG Yongsan’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/youryongsan. If you find yourself at the booth and would like to call the Yongsan ESPG Control Desk by cell phone, please call 0505-724-6707.

EMPLOYMENT

It may take some time and patience to find a job for spouses desiring to work, but with determination and a lot of networking, it can be done. Full-time or part-time jobs are listed through the Seoul Civilian Personnel Office (CPO). The ACS has a Family Member Employment office, with an excellent staff, which will assist you in your job search and in filling out Form SF171 for GS positions (ACS Bldg 4106, South Post, 738-8977; Hannam Village outreach center, 723-8293/6810/6821). Spouse Employment and Education Seminars are held semi-annually. Look for banners and advertisements in the Morning Calm regarding the next planned seminar. The following websites can provide more information: Civilian Human Resources Agency at cpoc-www.korea.army.mil; for government service employment, try U.S. Army Civilian Personnel On-Line at cpol.army.mil.

Teaching Substitute teachers are always needed on post. If you wish to teach at the Seoul American Elementary, Middle or High Schools, either full-time or on a substitute basis, make inquiries at the main office of the school at which you wish to work. A high school diploma and background check are required for substitute teaching positions. Teaching positions are also available at public and private schools located in Seoul; you can either write to the schools directly or contact them as soon as you arrive in Korea. They often advertise in *The Morning Calm*, bulletin boards located throughout Yongsan, the Commissary and the PX.

It is to your advantage to contact schools before your arrival in Korea. Aspects of the E-2 visa process, which is required for any foreigner who teaches English, must be done outside Korea. Visit www.reachtoteachrecruiting.com for a thorough review of the E-2 visa process.

Review any contracts carefully with the ACS Employment Readiness staff before accepting any position. Also, even though you will have 90 days to obtain a SOFA stamp, you must have it in your possession before you can apply for a job.

Summer Youth Employment Program is available for DoD military and civilian family members who are full-time students between the ages of 14-22. Although many of the jobs involve general office assistance, there are also a variety of areas where specific skills and background are required. One requirement for summer employment with USFK activities is a personal Social Security Number (SSN). Parents whose children are outside of Korea should ensure that their children possess a SSN before traveling to Korea if they wish to work here during the summer. Students must also have proof of full-time student status in the States.

Winter-Hire Program is designed for after-school and weekend work for students aged 16-22. Youth or spouses planning to work on the economy should check with the U.S. Embassy (www.asktheconsul.org) in advance to see what types of visas are required. For more information, check with the Student Hire Office at ACS (738-8977). There are always numerous babysitting opportunities for teenagers. Red Cross Babysitting Certification can be completed at the Moyer Recreation Center.

Informative Websites

www.milspouse.org

www.military.com/spouse

www.eslteacherboard.com

www.touch4teaching.com

www.eslcafe.com

www.reachtoteachrecruiting.com

EXPRESS BUS TERMINAL (BANPO). Located across the Han River and easy access by bus, subway, or car. A flower market is located on 3rd floor of the Express Bus Terminal and an extensive subway shopping experience is located underground. Recently renovated, the underground shopping is extensive and offers a completely unique Korean shopping experience weaving between three different subway line stops. See *Shopping - Markets*.

F

F

FITNESS CENTERS

Several fitness centers are located on-post and at Hannam Village. All are open seven days per week, but hours vary. Each center is open to all USFK ID cardholders. Use of the facilities is free of charge with the exception of The Point, a state-of-the-art fitness center located in the Dragon Hill Lodge (738-2233 ext.6240, Commercial 790-0016). Other fitness centers located on Yongsan and Hannam offer a wide range of services including Nautilus equipment, separate free-weight rooms, multipurpose rooms, basketball, squash courts, instructional classes and locker rooms with saunas.

Collier Fitness Center (South Post Bldg 5200), 736-4588.

Trent Gym (Main Post Bldg 1496), 724-8466.

Main Post Mini Gym (Main Post Bldg S2609), 724-7255.

Camp Coiner Mini Gym (Camp Coiner Bldg 1496), 724-7255.

Hannam Village Gym (Hannam Village Bldg 6147), 723-6849.

K-16 Gym (K-16 Bldg S158), 741-6316.

Intramural Sports Activities include basketball, flag football, softball, soccer and volleyball. Contact Collier Fitness Center for information regarding sports tournaments (e.g., basketball, racquetball, power lifting, tennis) (738-8606 for sports director).

Equipment and Class Requirements For information on aerobics, racquetball, martial arts and certified personal trainers contact the Collier Fitness Center

director at 736-7746 or Trent Gym on Main Post at 724-8466.

Running/Jogging There are 5k and 10k “fun runs” on South Post about one weekend a month. These will be advertised outside Collier Fitness Center. Reflective vests or belts are required. Events are posted in the Community Connection and on Facebook.

FLOWERS AND PLANTS See *Shopping - What to Buy*.

FORCE PROTECTION/DEMONSTRATIONS

F Korea remains a relatively safe country. However, it is important to be aware of the measures taken to ensure safety during your tour of duty. U.S. military installations are secure facilities. No one is allowed access to the post without a valid ID card. You must physically hand ID cards to the guards so they are able to view both sides. In addition, only vehicles with proper registration decals are allowed access to the post. Authorized ID card holders may escort visitors and vehicles onto the post. (See Visitors in A to Z.)

As with all military installations, USAG-Yongsan operates security procedures based upon levels of Force Protection (FP CON). The FP CON levels change according to the level of threat. Force Protection levels range from FP CON Alpha (lowest threat) to FP CON Delta (highest threat). The current FP CON level will generally be posted at the installation gates. For specific information visit www.usfk.mil, which is the USFK Force Protection site. For those living on post, the commander’s channel is another good source of information for the latest updates.

Another safety concern you should be aware of are the demonstrations periodically held throughout the peninsula. Protesters demonstrate for a variety of reasons, including opposition to the U.S. military presence in Korea. These demonstrations are sometimes held just outside the Garrison gates. Military officials on the post TV channels, Facebook, and radio stations 102.7FM and 1530AM issue warnings affecting those affiliated with the government. Korean National Police are always present at these demonstrations to provide additional security.

Finally, as with any other large metropolitan city, you should practice common sense when venturing out. The buddy system is highly encouraged and at times is mandatory. There is a curfew for family member minors during weeknights and on weekends. Because curfew hours and days vary for all other personnel, check the current curfew times at yongsan.korea.army.mil.

FURNITURE STORE See *Shopping*.

FURNITURE SUPPORT

Furniture support is available from the housing office for civilian, DoD, and military personnel. However, be aware that the authorized furniture support period varies.

If you are an accompanied military family living on post (whether you brought all or partial household goods), you are authorized full furniture support from the Housing Office (738-4270).

If you are an accompanied military family living off-post and are only entitled to bring partial household goods support, you are authorized furniture support from the Housing Office for your entire tour.

If you are entitled to bring full household goods and live off post, you are only authorized furniture support for 6 months (whether you brought all or partial household goods).

Finally, if you are a civilian family or DoD employee, you are only authorized 6 months furniture support because you are automatically entitled to full household goods shipment.

G

G

GALLERY See *Shopping - On Post*.

GASOLINE

The AAFES Gas Station fuel prices are considerably cheaper than on the Korean economy (near Gate 5, close to Itaewon Acres Housing, 738-7649, Mon-Fri 7am-7pm/Sat-Sun 8am-7pm). You must present your ID card and Ration Control Card before you pump gas. You can purchase drinks, some auto needs, oil, wiper fluid and some snacks at the small shop on site. Selection and quantities are very limited. Vacuums are available as well as free air for tires. If you must purchase fuel on the economy, make sure you are getting the proper grade for your vehicle. Korean gas is measured and priced in liters and is expensive, so have enough Korean Won with you before having your vehicle filled.

GAS GRILLS AND PROPANE

Propane tanks (even purged) cannot be shipped with your household goods. The Four Seasons, located in the Main Post Mini Mall, carries gas grills and propane tanks and has a good supply during summer months. Currently, the Four Seasons refills tanks (check with the sales associates for policy changes). They also have maps with information on locations off post where tanks can be refilled. Most picnic areas near the various housing complexes have charcoal grills for public use.

GOLF

G The Sung Nam Golf Course and Driving Range (736-3483/3490) is open to all military ID card holders and features an 18-hole par 72 course. The clubhouse features a dining room and pro shop as well as on-course snack bars and refreshment stands. They also have practice putting greens, a driving range and club facilities complete with daily-use lockers, club storage, showers, hot tubs, and rental power carts. Buses to Sung Nam leave from the parking lot situated between the MWR Arts & Crafts Center and the Burke Towers tennis courts. For tee times, annual memberships and bus schedules call 736-3483/3490.

Sung Nam has a Ladies' Golf Association, and Thursday mornings have been designated as ladies' day. Tee times are set aside each Thursday morning for members of the Ladies' Golf Association. Open play is permitted prior to and immediately following the Association's use of these times. The Ladies' season runs from April-October each year. For more information, call 736-3483/3490 and check the board in the ladies' locker room at Sung Nam.

GOLF DRIVING RANGE/PRO SHOP

The driving range at USAG-Yongsan is a fun place to practice your swing and brush up on your putting skills (Bldg 4271, South Post off X Corps Blvd, across from the Fire Station, 738-4190). A pro Golf Shop on the range carries a variety of golfing accessories, shoes, clubs and clothing in American sizes (the AAFES Four Seasons Store also sells a variety of golf equipment).

H

HOME REPAIRS/SELF-HELP

The Building Utility Repair Team Self-help (BURTS) Center (Bldg 5274, South Post, next to the Quartermaster laundry by Gate 13, 736-7818/5512/5513, Mon 9am-12pm/Tue-Fri 9am-6pm/Sat 8am-5pm, closed Sundays and Korean Holidays) stocks items needed to maintain your post quarters (e.g., fluorescent tubes, glass light fixtures, kitchen drain baskets, etc.) along with a full range of hand tools and power equipment to check out for short time periods. The BURTS Center sometimes carries bedding plants (in the spring) and a variety of interior decorating supplies for do-it-yourself landscapers and interior decorators. Self Help is not authorized to issue supplies to personnel living off-post.

HOMESCHOOLING

Many families who have chosen to home school find their time in Seoul filled with great adventures, fun social groups, and a variety of activities. The cooperative nature of the DoDDS community provides opportunities for homeschoolers to be involved in school classes and activities. This is a special arrangement not always available in the States. Your student can register with the school and take single classes in Elementary, Middle and High School. For example, there are students who take only Korean or Chinese classes.

Groups: The best way to find out what groups are currently active is to check in with the Seoul American Homeschool Network (SAHN) on Facebook. Child Youth and School Services have a home school liaison, who can be contacted through the outreach coordinator at 738-8122.

Field trip opportunities abound because of the urban setting and ease of transportation: zoos, aquariums, markets, museums, fortresses, palaces and so much more! Two fabulous museums are located within walking distance of Yongsan: the Korean War Museum and the Korean National Museum are both located right outside the garrison.

Arts and Crafts Center (South Post, Bldg 4253/4254, 738-4750) has professional artists who teach such skills as woodworking, pottery, drawing, painting and much more. They offer special classes for homeschoolers.

Youth Sports program provides great opportunities for all age groups to excel

in sports, to include baseball, soccer, T-ball, volleyball, flag football, swimming and softball. Many homeschooling families are very active in the Youth Sports program. Coaches are always needed. Contact the Youth Sports Director for CYSS at 738-4581 for more information. Unique opportunities to participate in martial arts programs are also available.

Legal issues To find out some of the legal issues concerning homeschooling overseas, visit the Homeschooling Legal Defense Association website (www.hslda.org, search “Military Homeschooling Overseas”). The association offers discounts to military members. Because student children of a U.S. military member or a DoD civilian in Korea do not reside in any of the 50 states, they are not subject to U.S. State Mandatory Attendance Statutes. Additionally, because of the Status of Forces Agreement, they are not subject to homeschooling laws in the host country. However, families can be investigated on an individual basis. Of course, it is highly recommended that you keep thorough records, conduct school for the minimum number of days required by your permanent state of residence and document attendance. You will need this documentation should you either put your child in regular school or transfer to a state with more stringent homeschooling laws.

HOTELS

Most incoming military personnel stay at the Dragon Hill Lodge on South Post (see Dragon Hill Lodge in A to Z). If the Dragon Hill Lodge does not have any rooms available, the Reservations Department will assist you in reserving rooms at the JW Marriott (02-6282-6282). If you have to seek accommodations elsewhere on the economy, Seoul has a wide variety of hotels with varying prices. Request the Hotel Referral List from the Dragon Hill Lodge Guest Services Desk. An abbreviated list is included below. To make reservations at hotels without DSN access, you may use pay phones in the lobby of the Dragon Hill Lodge. To make reservations at any of these hotels from the U.S., first dial 011-82-2 and then the last seven numbers listed. If dialing from a DSN number, follow the procedure for dialing listed at the beginning of the handbook.

Hotels in the Yongsan Area/cost per night/phone number

Elle Inn, about \$110, 02-792-8700

Gaya Hotel, \$50-\$70, 02-798-510

Crown Hotel, \$100-110, DSN 723-7218/Commercial 02-797-4111

Capital Hotel, about \$140, DSN 723-8661/Commercial 02-792-1122

Hamilton Hotel, \$130-140, 02-794-0171

Holiday Taejon, \$120-130, 02-792-3111

Grand Hyatt Seoul, about \$220, 02-797-1234

Prices may vary depending on the exchange rate.

Most of the hotels listed above offer military discounts to U.S. service members and their families. When selecting a hotel, always ask to see your rooms before making your final decision, as some rooms have limited space. Many of the nicer hotel chains (e.g., Grand Hyatt Seoul) offer great restaurants and shopping. Even if you are not staying overnight, take the opportunity to enjoy their world-class cuisine.

Billeting On Post

Walker Center, Free, 736-1048

Religious Retreat Center, \$20(Leave), \$30(TDY), 723-7314/723-7593

U.S. Embassy Association Suites (Bldg.8105), \$100, 738-6124 or 02-397-4487

Korean Inns

Once you have become accustomed to the culture in Korea, you may want to try staying in a Korean Inn or “yogwan.” A stay at a Korean Inn can range from W12,000-W25,000 per night. This depends upon your preference for a Western-style bed and bath or “Korean style accommodations.” Be aware that some Korean Inns have bathrooms in the rooms, but many do not. This is definitely an experience that the adventurer will enjoy! See *Travel in Korea* for ideas and information on other hotels in Seoul, or travel needs in other parts of Korea.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS (JFTR) WEIGHT ALLOWANCE

As of February 2009, U.S. Army officials increased the Joint Forces Travel Regulation (JFTR) weight allowance to 50% of household goods to Korea for accompanied tours (except Chinhae Fleet Activity Command and Osan AFB, which are full JFTR weight allowance locations) and 25% for unaccompanied tours for Army Service members. Housing Offices do have loaner furniture and appliances available for reporting personnel (see Furniture Support). Government quarters on-post and leased quarters off-post may have limited storage capacity to accommodate entire JFTR weight allowance if shipped. No storage facilities exist in Korea for extra household goods. Contact your servicing Housing Office prior to shipping any household goods.

HOUSEHOLD HELP

Many people choose to hire household help during their tour in Korea. The best way to find a reliable person is by word of mouth from friends and neighbors. Occasionally you can “inherit” household help from departing co-workers or

neighbors. Do not hire anyone without a recommendation from a friend or former employer; make sure you both agree on all conditions before hiring.

Pay rates vary depending on the duties performed, but daily housecleaners request wages of \$70-\$80 per day. Some ask for payment in won, others in dollars; some want to be paid weekly, others prefer a lump sum once or twice a month. Housemen ask for around \$50-\$70 per day and will work inside or outside the house doing heavier work such as windows, floors, gardening, car cleaning, etc. Most want to work at least one day every week. It is customary for all hired help to receive a bonus at Chusok (Korean Thanksgiving), Christmas, and/or Lunar New Year. If you are not sure what would be an acceptable amount, ask friends or neighbors. It is at your own discretion to decide whether your household help will get American or Korean holidays off and whether they are paid holidays or not. You may want to talk with other families employing the same person to ensure consistency.

Although most household help already have post passes, it may be necessary for you to assist yours in obtaining one, unless you plan to pick them up at the gate each time they work for you. See Visitors in A to Z for information on obtaining a post pass. Pass renewals are required yearly; it is your responsibility to collect expired passes from household help and return them to the Pass and ID Office so that they do not fall into the wrong hands.

Due to SOFA Agreement issues, there has been a huge debate on who can be hired as household help. Generally, you may not hire anyone who is sponsored by the Embassy. Please contact the post command for all rules and regulations concerning the hiring of babysitters or household help who may not be U.S. citizens or Korean Nationals. There are strict fines (up to \$10,000) imposed by the Korean Government for those who hire help illegally. Also, due to the supply and demand of legal household help, pay rates (daily and monthly) are starting to rise dramatically.

HOUSING

The Housing Office will work to make your transition into your new home as smooth as possible, whether you are accompanied or unaccompanied (ACS Bldg 4106, 738-3211). This includes Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA), which you may be authorized prior to moving into your permanent residence. All service members regardless of branch of service or status must inprocess with the Housing Office within 48 hours of arrival or completion of in-processing with 19th Personnel Company. All DoD civilians eligible for a Living Quarters Allowance (LQA) are also required to in-process with the Housing Office. All civilians, unless designated as Key Essential Personnel with specific approval to

reside on post, are required to live in off post accommodations. The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) will advise you on your Temporary Quarters Subsistence Entitlements (TQSE) and LQA entitlements.

Unaccompanied Personnel Housing (UPH) (738-5506/International: 011-82-2-7918-5506) Unaccompanied personnel of all ranks and branches of service are normally housed in UPH on the installation. Personnel in pay grades of E4 and below will reside in the barracks. Personnel in pay grade of E5 and E6 may reside in barracks if adequate space and privacy criteria are met, or they will reside in the Bachelor Enlisted Quarters (BEQ). Unaccompanied officers and NCOs in the ranks of E7 and above will be assigned Bachelor Officer Quarters (BOQ) or Senior Enlisted Bachelor Quarters (SEBQ). Only in the event of adequate quarters being unavailable will an unaccompanied service member be authorized to reside off post. While all UPH meets or exceeds the criteria for square footage, they may not be able to accommodate a full weight allowance of HHGs. Full furnishing support is available in all UPH.

Accompanied Housing On Post/Army Family Housing (AFH) Command sponsored accompanied personnel and certain designated Key and Essential civilians are housed on post in AFH. Your PCS travel orders will normally state concurrent travel to government quarters and indicate bedroom number authorization and housing area location. The Housing Office personnel will brief you on projected quarters availability, Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA) or TQSE and place your name on the appropriate waiting list.

Bedroom requirement is determined by the size of your family. Couples with no children and families (either married couples or single parents) with one child receive two bedroom units. Families with two children receive three bedroom units and those with three or more children qualify for four or five bedroom units.

If Quarters are not projected to be available within 60 days of your arrival, or if you are granted concurrent travel to economy quarters, you may be authorized to reside off post and receive Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA). Accompanied service members of all ranks and branches, as well as DoD civilians, are strongly advised not to seek economy housing quarters prior to in-processing with the Housing Office.

There are several AFH areas in Yongsan.. Below is a description of each type. For photos and floor plans go to yongsan.korea.army.mil, click on Community and follow the link to Housing.

Helo Acres: Officers in grades O6 and above reside in this area, located between Seoul American Elementary School, Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital and Gate 14. Quarters are single story duplexes and have all major

appliances (including dishwashers), window blinds, air conditioning units and outdoor storage areas. The majority of these homes have linoleum floor tiles. There is one designated uncovered parking space for each unit and limited visitor parking. Personnel assigned to these housing units may have two domestic pets and are responsible for their care, maintenance and cleanup.

Watkins Ridge: Command Sergeants Major (CSM) live on South Post behind Burke Towers and Eagle Grove housing areas. Sergeants Major (SGM) may also reside in Watkins Ridge if units are available. These quarters are primarily single story duplexes with some quadplexes. All units have window air conditioning units, oil heating systems, window blinds, all major appliances (including dishwashers) and outdoor storage areas. The majority of these homes have linoleum floor tiles. There is one designated uncovered parking space for each unit and limited visitor parking. Personnel assigned to these housing units may have two domestic pets and are responsible for their care, maintenance and clean up.

Burke Towers: This apartment complex was opened in June 2004 and is designated for O-3/5 and WO-4/5. The 5-story towers consist of thirty apartments each: twenty 3-bedroom units, nine 4-bedroom units, and one 5-bedroom unit (located on the first floor). The complex features a BBQ area, tot lot, playground and basketball court. Two tennis courts with nightlights are next to the South tower complex. Handicapped parking is available near the north tower. There are six elevators per building. Each apartment unit has an assigned underground parking space. Overflow/visitor parking is located in the middle garage between the two towers. Burke Towers' features include central air and heating system, ceiling fans in each room, Pergo no-wax floors, and sliding glass patio doors with vertical blinds. Burke Towers is a "no pet" housing area and there are no exceptions. For additional information call 738-3211.

Krzyzowski Hill (Itaewon Acres), Koelsch Grove (Eagle Grove) and Loring Village(Black Hawk Village): These areas consist of multi-family townhouse style units. The units consist of 2, 3, or 4 bedroom homes. The 4-bedroom units are two stories and have ground floor access. The 2- and 3-bedroom units are either one story with ground floor access or two stories with second floor entrances. They are designated for field grade officers (O-3/5, and WO-4/5). The complexes are located in different areas of Yongsan South Post. The units have central air conditioning and heating, all major appliances (including dishwashers), and mini-blinds on all windows. Each unit has one exterior storage area; however, storage space in all units is limited. All units have linoleum floor tiles. There is one designated uncovered space for each unit and limited visitor parking. Personnel assigned to these housing units may have two domestic pets and are

responsible for their care, maintenance and clean up.

Hannam Village: This area is located about 2 miles from Yongsan Garrison. Built in 1982, it is composed entirely of apartments (low and high rise buildings). They are designated for company-grade officers (O1/O3) and enlisted personnel (E8 and below). Hannam Village has its own PX Annex, a small commissary, chapel, fitness center, library branch, swimming pool, and other recreational facilities. Apartments have a freestanding or split air conditioning unit in each room and radiator heat with heat covers. Most apartments have linoleum floor tiles and new energy efficient windows, sliding glass doors leading to the balcony and limited storage space. All units have major appliances (including dishwasher) and mini-blinds. There is one designated uncovered parking space for each unit and limited visitor parking. Hannam Village is a “no-pet” housing area and there are no exceptions at this point in time. For additional information call 723-8950.

Off Post Housing Housing on the economy is plentiful and offers a wide variety of styles, to include high rise apartments, villas, duplexes, and single family dwelling units. If you are eligible to reside off post due to non-availability of adequate government quarters, or if you are a DoD civilian, you will be issued a statement of non availability (SNA) from the Housing Office. Once you receive an SNA, you will be required to attend an Off Post Housing Briefing (offered tri-weekly). The briefing will provide you a multitude of information about leasing on the economy, such as realtor information, security checklists, utility rates and housing allowance entitlements. Service members residing on the economy are entitled to a monthly Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) and Miscellaneous Housing Allowance (MIHA). The MIHA is provided to help defray the costs of setting up the off-post residence. Once you choose your off-post unit, the Housing Office will assist you with all the contract negotiations. You may choose to hire a realtor to assist with finding off-post housing to ease the selection process and expedite the negotiations with owners. For more information, call 738-3489.

Note: DO NOT enter into a lease agreement without prior approval from the Housing Office.

I

IMMUNIZATIONS

The following table lists all the necessary vaccinations by your status. Check with your medical treatment facility, family doctor or school nurse for recent updates on immunization requirements. For school immunization requirements visit the DoDEA website at www.dodea.edu.

M=mandatory, R=recommended, HR=recommended only for persons at high risk, A=available, N/A=not available

Immunization	EEC (US)	DoD Civilians	Family Members & DoDDS Employees	DoDDS Students & CYSS
Anthrax	M	A	A*	-
Smallpox	M	A	A**	-
Hepatitis A	R	A	A	M
Hepatitis B	R	HR	HR	M
Influenza	R	R	HR	R
Measles	R	R	R	M
Meningitis	Required for all Military, Civilian Personnel and Dependents over the age of 11yrs.			
Mumps	R	R	R	M
Rubella	R	R	R	M
Polio	R	R	R	M
Tetanus	M	R	R	M
Diphtheria	M	R	R	M
Typhoid	R	A	A	-
Japanese Encephalitis	A	A	-	-
Varicella	HR	HR	HR	M
Hemophilus influenzae type b	R for over 2 yrs.			
Pneumococcal	23-valent R for > 65 yr, 7-valent R for young children			

Acronyms used:

EEC (US): U.S Emergency Essential Civilian.

DoD: Department of Defense.

DoDDS: Department of Defense Dependent School

CYSS: Child, Youth and School Services

*Anthrax vaccination is available for family members 18-65 years old. For

active duty service members, at least 3 shots in the series are required prior to coming to Korea.

** Smallpox vaccination is available for family members age 18 and older. Active duty service members should receive this vaccination prior to coming to Korea.

If you plan to travel outside Korea, check with the Clinical Preventive Medicine Service (PM) for current requirements in other countries (Bldg 5447, South Post just inside Gate 6, on the corner close to the Commissary, 736-3025). Websites for more information about immunizations and traveler's health:

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Travelers Health: www.cdc.gov/travel.

World Health Organization: www.who.int/en.

INSURANCE

The two types of insurance most commonly required by service members and their families in Korea are automobile insurance and household goods/personal effects insurance. Automobile liability insurance is required to register a motor vehicle with the Provost Marshal. Many service members also choose to carry a "renter's policy" to cover their personal property against fire and theft. Insurance is available locally or through companies in the U.S. The insurance company you do business with in the U.S. may also provide coverage in Korea. You should confirm this prior to departing the U.S. There are also affordable, reputable companies in Korea who will provide coverage to Americans serving here.

INTERNET ACCESS

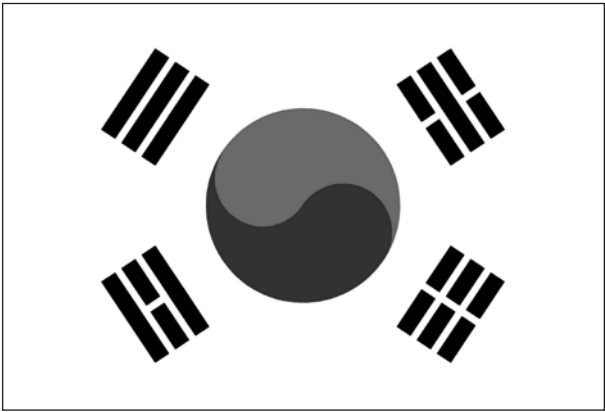
The internet/telephone provider you use will depend on where you live. Contact the 41st Signal Battalion first to establish line connectivity (Bldg 2320, 738-6900). Generally, the internet provider for on post housing areas, including Hannam Village and K-16 Air base, is LG Dacom (1st floor, Moyer Community Activity Center, 723-7023/7030/Commercial 02-6355-5000). If you live off post, your internet provider will likely be Korea Telecom (KT) (02-797-0060). To get to the KT office, exit Gate 14, walk to the main road and turn right. The office is a short distance up this road on the right side. See Telephone in A to Z.

INTERNET CAFÉ

A Cyber Café is located at the Moyer Recreation Center (723-7023, 9am-9pm, daily). Usage rates are determined on a sliding scale, based on the amount of hours purchased. The Business Centre in the Dragon Hill Lodge (738-2222/6826)

and the One Stop Center (02-792-6655) located above the Embassy Starbucks, also offers fee paying internet access call. Free Wi-Fi access is available at the Food Courts on both Main and South posts as well at the Navy Club and the library.

K



THE KOREAN FLAG

Taegeukgi, the national flag of the Republic of Korea, consists of a blue and red yin-yang circle in the center, one black trigram in each of the four corners, and a white background. The white background symbolizes light and purity and reflects the Korean people's traditional affinity for peace. The yin-yang circle represents the dual cosmic forces of yin (blue) and yang (red). It symbolizes universal harmony, in which the passive and the active, the feminine and the masculine, form a whole. The four trigrams represent Heaven, Earth, Water and Fire. Collectively, the yin-yang circle and the four trigrams represent universal harmony and unity. Taegeukgi embodies the ideals of all Koreans, who have pursued creativity and prosperity under universal principles and truth. For

the Korean people their flag is a source of pride and inspiration. During the Japanese occupation period, beginning in 1910, the Korean flag was outlawed in public places. For the next 35 years the Taegukgi flags were kept hidden until Liberation Day in 1945. The Korean flag is a symbol of the country's struggle for independence and freedom.

KOREAN LANGUAGE CLASSES

Korean language classes are offered periodically through ACS (Tues and Thurs evenings in the ACS building, 738-7505/Tues and Fri mornings at Hannam Village, 723-6810). These classes are usually free of charge but a small fee may apply for workbooks. The classes help you master enough Korean to get around the country. Koreans appreciate the fact that you are trying to learn their language and will often offer assistance.. Classes are advertised in the free weekly newspaper The Morning Calm. The PX and the Mini-Mart book section at the Dragon Hill Lodge maintain a good selection of books on learning the Korean language. Many come with audiotapes.

The University of Maryland campus at Yongsan Garrison offers university-level Korean classes (723- 4300/723-4294/723-4295, www.asia.umuc.edu

Free Rosetta Stone Language courses are available by registering at Army e-learning. Click the link at usarmy.skillport.com. The courses are fun and great for learning the correct pronunciations. If you are not a member of the U.S. Army, you may encounter problems registering. In this case, wait until you arrive and go to the Yongsan Library and sign on via the computer system there.

The Global Village of Itaewon as well as other locations in Seoul offer Korean language classes throughout the year. Information and sign up can be found at <http://global.seoul.go.kr/itaewon/>.

L

LAUNDRY FACILITIES

A 24-hour AAFES launderette is located in Bldg 4220 (near the South Post Mini-Mall). AAFES also provides other dry-cleaning and laundry services on Main Post and at Hannam Village.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE

The Yongsan Legal Assistance Office (Bldg 4106, South Post Room 229, Mon-Wed, Fri 9am-4:30pm/Thurs 1-3:30pm) offers a wide variety of legal services in the following areas. Services in a particular listed area may be limited.

Family law: Includes marriage, annulment, legal separation, divorce, financial nonsupport, child custody/visitation, paternity and adoption.

Estates: Wills, living wills, health care powers of attorney, and the designation of beneficiaries under life insurance policies.

Real and personal property: Purchase, sale, or rental of property.

Economic issues: Includes debt, banking, credit and non-government claims.

Civilian administrative issues: Includes immigration and naturalization.

Military administrative issues: Line of duty investigations, reports of survey, evaluation report appeals and security clearance revocation.

Other Services: Notarization services

Eligibility The following people are eligible to receive legal assistance at the Yongsan Legal Assistance Office: Active Component (AC) members of the U.S. military and their family members; Reserve Component (RC) service members serving on active duty pursuant to orders, and their family members; surviving family members of AC, RC, and retired service members who would be eligible for legal assistance if the service or retired member were alive; DoD civilian employees and their family members and civilian contractors, if the Department of Defense is contractually obligated to provide such assistance. Contractors must provide a copy of their contract or accreditation letter to verify this obligation (not all services are available to contractors).

LIBRARY SERVICES

The Yongsan Library is the Main Post Library for HQ, 8th U.S. Army and USAG-Yongsan installations. The library is the clearinghouse for all inter-library loans. Over 80,000 materials are available for circulation, including fiction, non-fiction, children's books, reference books, DVDs, music CDs, language tapes and audio books, as well as an extensive listing of magazines and stateside newspapers. The library offers research computers and workstations dedicated to Internet access. These are popular with patrons, so a sign up system has been instituted. Free Wi-Fi is also available throughout the building. The library offers weekly story time every Tuesday 10-11 am for children ages 2-5 years old.

Yongsan Post Library Bldg 2215, 723-7380/6862, Mon-Fri 9am-10pm/Sat-Sun 9am-6pm.

Hannam Village Library Bldg 6150, 723-3348, Sun-Tues 11am-7pm/Wed-Sat 11am-8pm/Closed Mon.

K-16 Library Seoul Air Base Library offers access to a wide range of library materials and online databases (Sung Nam City, Bldg: #S302, 741-6994, Tues-Fri 11am-8pm/Sat-Sun 11am-7pm/Closed Mon.)

M

M

MILITARY POLICE

Yongsan: Bldg 1397, Main Post, 724-3004/3005/6695/4258, Commercial 02-797-4096/4097, DSN 050-5724-3004/3005 Lines manned 24 hours daily.

Hannam Village: Bldg S6201, 723-9131

The Provost Marshal's Administrative Office phone is 724-4281. The Provost Marshal's Office (PMO) has many phone numbers that are listed in the Community Help Book, available at ACS.

Other Emergency Numbers

Ambulance: 116 / 911

Fire: 117 / 911

Military Police: 911/724-3004/3005

MATERNITY CLOTHING See *Shopping - Special Interest*.

MEDICAL SERVICES

The Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital (BAACH) provides medical care to active duty, family members and retirees, DoD employees, contractors and family members (South Post near Gate 13; for information and appointments 737-CARE (2273)). Any hospital services required are provided, either by BAACH or by a local Host Nation Partnership Hospital. The BAACH provides inpatient services, intensive care and specialty services (www.korea.amedd.army.mil).

CLINICS	LOCATION	HOURS OF OPERATION	PHONE
ACC/Family Practice	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630 Thursday 1230-1630	737-8396/8251
Alcohol Treatment Center		M-F 0730-1630	737-5208
Audiology	Bldg 3577	M,W,F 0730-1130/1300-1630 Thursday 1300-1630	737-4099
Behavioral Health (Out-patient)	Bldg 7005	M-F 0800-1630 Thursday 1230-1630	737-2273
Behavioral Health (Inpatient)	Bldg 7005	M-F 0800-1630 Thursday 1230-1630	737-5570
Chaplain Services	Bldg 7005		737-335/3129
Dermatology	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-8396
EENT	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-8287
EFMP	Bldg 3567	M-F 0800-1630	738-5000
EDIS	Bldg 3568	M-F 0800-1630	738-4422
Emergency Department	Bldg 7005	24hours /7 days a week	737-6132
Emergency Room	Bldg 7005		737-5545/6001
Family Practice	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-2273
General Surgery	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-8392
Immunizations	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1530 Thursday 1300-1530	725-3264
Information Desk	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-3155/3085
Internal Medicine	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-8251
Laboratory	Bldg 7005	M-F:0730-1630	737-6918
Mental Health Clinic	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-5508

Neurology	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-8396
Neurosurgery	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-5186
Nutrition Care	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-5521/3614
OB/GYN	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-6558
Occupational Therapy	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-5005
Optometry	Bldg 1625	M-F 0730-1630	725-3601
Oral Surgery	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-3101
Orthopedics	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-5186/0190
Pathology	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-2273
Patient Representative	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-3045
Pediatrics	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-3157/3158
Pharmacy-Inpatient *TRN H: Training Holiday	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-2000 Sat, Sun,*TRN H & H 0830-1700	737-4633/3055
Pharmacy-Outpatient *TRN H: Training Holiday	Bldg 7005	M,W-F 0730-1800 TUE 0830-1800 *0900-1700 CLOSED-Sat, Sun & H	737-7984
Pharmacy	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-7984
Physical Therapy	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-5092
Preventive Medicine	Bldg 5447	M-F 0730-1630	736-3025
Physical Medicine & Rehab	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	725-7619
Podiatry	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	736-2273
Radiology	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-7976
Speech Pathology	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	738-4422
Social Work	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-550
Yongsan Health Clinic	Bldg 1663	M-F 0630-1600,Thursday 1300-1600	725-6232

Prenatal Care and Childbirth: There are many options for giving birth in Seoul hospitals. Contact the OB/GYN clinic and TRICARE for more information.

www.birthinginkorea.com lists birth centers in the Seoul and Kyunggi Provinces, as well as contact information for the Korean Midwives Association.

Doulas provide non-medical, labor, breastfeeding and post-partum support. Doulas without post access can be signed onto post for births at the BAACH or homebirths on post. The following is a list of English-speaking doulas:

Lisa Fincaryk - Canadian also speaks Korean, birthinginkorea@gmail.com; 010-7235-8667

Tonya Pendergast - American with post access, teejay_12@hotmail.com; 010-2001-8715

Rachel Reeves - American, morningcalmdoulas@gmail.com; 010-9232-8077

Karen Zamperini - American with post access, morningcalmdoulas@gmail.com; 010-2381-8113

Homebirths/Natural Birth: A midwife is a medically trained professional who is an expert in natural birth. Some midwives in Korea attend homebirths. Their level of English varies.

Rosa (Kim Ok-Jin) OK Birth Center/MediFlower (Excellent English) - www.okbirth.com; 019-2447-8321

Medi Flower Birthing Center: Dr. Hwan Wook Chung, whose MediFlower Clinic is located in Gangnam near the Seoul University of Education metro stop, will also attend homebirths and can be signed on post. He speaks English very well. Several people have been successful in getting reimbursed for his fees by TRICARE in the past few years. The birthing center is brand new and offers water birth and a lactation specialist. They can handle high-risk pregnancies and can perform cesarean surgeries if necessary. The clinic has special rates for military. Most of the staff speak English. 02-548-9400

Direct Line to English-speaking consultant, Stella: 010-8550-9742

Medi Flower has a Facebook page and is in the process of developing a web page.

Childbirth Education/Labor Preparation Classes: On post childbirth preparation classes are held at the hospital and taught by CAPT Landis from the WICU. She is in the process of trying to get breastfeeding classes started again as well as a breastfeeding support group. Classes are free.

For those choosing to birth off-post or wanting a more in-depth childbirth course there are several options:

- Lisa Fincaryk offers a comprehensive, general childbirth education class that also covers issues specific to birthing as a foreigner in Korea. She teaches Hypnobirthing as well. 010-7235-8667 birthinginkorea@gmail.com

- Karen Zamperini and Rachel Reeves offer a Birth Skills Childbirth Preparation class which focuses on body awareness, breathing and relaxation. Karen Zamperini is in the process of becoming a certified Hypnobabies Instructor and will be offering classes by the time this edition is published. Classes are offered in several different formats including a Birth Boot Camp for those who need to get the information quickly. www.morningcalmdoulas.com

Karen Zamperini 010-2381-8113 morningcalmdoulas@gmail.com

Rachel Reeves 010-9232-8077 morningcalmdoulas@gmail.com

La Leche League (LLL): The La Leche League is a volunteer-based organization that provides free mother-to-mother support. They are not currently having meetings but are available for phone support. Contact Aleks at 010-6376-1976.

Off Post Medical Care: For individuals who require medical care off post, there are several doctors and clinics that service the foreign community. The 18th MEDCOM currently maintains partnerships with 19 state-of-the-art Korean hospitals. These hospitals feature American educated and trained specialists, as well as English speaking staff members to assist American personnel and offer a wide array of services to those serving throughout the Korean peninsula.

Seoul Help Center for Foreigners English Help Line: 02-797 8212. Mon-Fri 9:30am-12:30pm & 2-5pm .

24-Hour English Medical Referral Service. 010-4769-8212, 010-8750-8212, Emergency: 119

Seoul Help Center 02-731-6800, Fax 02-731-6803, Mon-Fri 9am-6pm

Off Post Patient Health Care Guide: BAACH has implemented a new patient program to ensure TRICARE Representatives, Nurse Case Managers and Host Patient Liaisons are assigned to the BAACH and each of the outlying health clinics are available to help.

Providers will refer you (transport and guides are provided) to host nation partnership hospitals and/or clinics for the specialty care you require when the services are not available within the military system. Host nation partnership hospitals and clinics provide the highest quality of health care and all are accredited by the Joint Commission International or the Korean Hospital Association. Many of the medical staff speak English and a significant number were trained in America. A staff of Host Nation Patient Liaisons assist patients as well. The Nurse Case Managers visit all our beneficiaries if they require hospitalization and conduct telephone follow ups with the Korean healthcare team providing your medical care.

The BAACH provides a free shuttle service for patients and their family members to and from appointments at several host nation partnership hospitals. Visit the TRICARE section of the 65th Medical Brigade Website, www.korea.amedd.army.mil, for more information on each of the host nation partnership hospitals, as well as maps and answers to frequently asked questions.

Optical: For information on frames, lenses or complete pairs of eyeglasses, see Shopping - Special Interest. For eye examination appointments call 725-3601/5432. No contact lens fittings are done at the hospital, so bring a valid contact lens prescription and a 6 month to a 1 year supply of lenses with you. You can reorder contacts at the Optical Shop with a valid contact lens prescription, on the Korean economy or over the internet.

Referrals: Most visits to a host nation partnership hospital or clinic typically begin with a referral from your Primary Care Manager at the local Military Treatment Facility (MTF). If the needed care is not available at the Military Treatment Facility, a Host Nation Appointment Clerk or TRICARE Representative at your local TRICARE Office will assist in making your appointment at one of our host nation partnership hospitals or medical clinics. Usually, the Host Nation Appointment Clerk will make your appointment, schedule transportation on one of the TRICARE courtesy shuttles, and provide you with a claim form and any necessary medical documentation or care authorizations needed for your medical appointment. Although our host nation partnership hospitals and clinics accept self referrals, it is best to work through your local 65th Medical Brigade TRICARE Office to coordinate your care. The payment for your care at the Korean facility will depend on your TRICARE status or other insurance plan you may have. When you call to make your appointment TRICARE staff will advise you on your coverage and financial responsibilities at that time.

TRICARE: See *TRICARE in A to Z*.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Overseas: A program designed to provide: nutritious food, tips on how to prepare a balanced meal, nutrition/health screening and access to resources to lead a healthier life (Bldg 5210, South Post, across from the BAACH Emergency Room, for information or to find out if you are eligible call 736-6074/6106). The program provides benefits to eligible pregnant women, and later, their infants for at least six months and possibly up to one year. Eligible children may participate up to age five.

MOVIE THEATER

The Multi Purpose Training Facility (MPTF) is a complex used for business meetings and family entertainment. It houses three movie screens offering a variety of movies, including recent releases. Movies are provided for a nominal fee (Bldg 4218, South Post, for a listing of movies and times call 738-7389/3154 or visit www.aafes.com/ems/pac/kcapital.htm). Free movie listings are found at the movie theater and various eateries on post.

The Seoul Selection Movie Theater offers Korean films with English subtitles on Saturdays at 2:30pm and Sundays at 11:30am for W5,000 (third floor of the Kumho Museum of Art, directly across from the Kyongbok Palace near the U.S. Embassy. Take the subway on Line 3 to Anguk Station (Exit 1, www.seoulselection.com).



South Post Movie Theater

MOYER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES CENTER (MCAC)

(Bldg 2258, Main Post near Gate 2, 723-3291/3192 or www.mwr.korea.com). MCAC has a family oriented atmosphere and is one of the largest multipurpose facilities on post, with game rooms, pool tables, darts, table tennis, foosball and Korean billiards. Various events are held throughout the year, such as chess, card tournaments, and Wii tournaments, flea markets and special holiday and family events. The BOSS lounge is available on the second floor. In addition, you can relax in comfortable chairs and watch movies, sports or your favorite shows on TV in the lounge. The Cyber Café (723-7023) is located on the first floor. You can check email, talk to friends and family or just have fun surfing the web. Musical instruments and sound rooms (723-3266) are available for rent upon request and instruments include guitar, bass and drums. Also located on the first floor is the Smoothie King. There is a MWR Trophy Shop located on the first floor that provides engraving services for items such as trophies, plaques and nameplates. The American Red Cross is also located at MCAC. See American Red Cross in A to Z.

MCAC is also the hub for all post bus transportation. Current bus schedules are available at the Military Bus Office and the Korean Bus Ticketing Office on the ground floor. Buses depart regularly to and from Osan Air Base, Camp Humphreys and many other locations. If you want to travel to other parts of Asia or the world, visit Leisure Travel Services for official and unofficial travel, located on the second floor of MCAC. See Travel - Travel Services for more information.

N

NEWSPAPERS

Subscriptions for the Stars & Stripes, The Korean Herald, The Korean Times, and USA Today are available for delivery. The Herald Tribune and USA Today do not deliver papers on Sunday. Keep your receipts for proof of payment since many delivery people have limited English skills. The Stars & Stripes and USA Today are widely available in vending machines on post. The Morning Calm Weekly is a complimentary newspaper available every Friday. The Yongsan Library offers several large city newspapers, which generally arrive three to four days after publication dates.

- Stars & Stripes: www.stripes.com, 721-7140 or email cirkorea@pstripes.osd.mil
- The Korean Herald: www.koreaherald.co.kr, email subscribe@heraldm.com
- Korean Times: www.koreatimes.co.kr, 02-724-2715 or email subscription to koreatimes.co.kr
- Herald Tribune: www.global.nytimes.com
- USA Today: www.usatoday.com
- Morning Calm: imcom.korea.army.mil, the link is under News on the bottom right corner, 738-7352

NONCOMBATANT EVACUATION OPERATIONS (NEO)

While Korea is a relatively safe location, it is important that all noncombatants be prepared to evacuate both quickly and safely. Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) is directed by the U.S. Department of State, to evacuate eligible personnel from foreign countries where their lives are endangered by war, natural disaster or civil unrest to safe haven. Those U.S. personnel considered noncombatants are family members of U.S. DoD military and civilian employees, non-emergency essential U.S. civilian employees and DoD invited contractors and their families. Both command sponsored and non-command sponsored families are eligible for evacuation assistance from Korea. Military members and emergency essential civilian employees are not considered noncombatants and will remain in Korea until directed otherwise. All DoD affiliated noncombatants must register for NEO with their NEO warden. To help noncombatants prepare for a possible evacuation, U.S. Forces Korea conducts

a semi-annual Courageous Channel Exercise. All DoD affiliated noncombatants are required to participate in these exercises in order to rehearse evacuation procedures and to train personnel who support NEO execution. In addition to participating in Courageous Channel, each family is required to maintain a NEO kit that includes important documents, enough food and water for three days and protective gas masks (issued by the military). For more information see Force Protection in A to Z.

O

ORIENTAL PRESS

Oriental Press is a commercial printing and publishing contractor with a long-term presence and commitment to the U.S. military community in Korea (Bldg 1440, Main Post behind the Community Bank, 738-5005, PSC 450, Box 758, APO AP 96206). Since 1990, the company has been a valued resource for a variety of services, to include printing of business cards and other stationery, military gift items such as unit coins, plaques and presentation projects, including specialty articles of almost any description. Oriental Press prints and distributes *the Morning Calm Weekly* and *The Seoul Survivor*, free of charge, as a service to the community.



P

PETS

The 106th Medical Detachment (VSSD) provides primarily preventive veterinary medical and surgical care for privately owned animals on a space available basis as demand exceeds clinic staffing and capabilities. There are six Veterinary Treatment Facilities (VTFs) in Korea located at USAG Casey, USAG Red Cloud, USAG Yongsan, Osan AB, USAG Humphreys, and USAG Walker. Some specialty veterinary care is also available at the Yongsan VTF located on South Post, just north of the gas station (Building 4728, 738-4261/5145). If calling from the U.S. dial; 011-822-7918-4261/5145. These clinics work together to provide a range of primary veterinary care services to include vaccinations, lab work, x-rays and ultrasound, microchips, surgery, dental cleaning, health certificates, and sick call; however, they do not provide after hour emergency services. The veterinary care at the VTFs can be limited during military training exercises due to the primary mission to provide veterinary support if necessary for the transition to hostilities. Therefore, the 106th Medical Detachment (VSSD) recommends that you visit their website at <http://www.korea.amedd.army.mil/veterinary/index.html> to assist you in finding off post veterinary clinics with directions prior to limited service times or needing emergency services so that you are prepared.

PET REGISTRATION/LICENSE, AND MICROCHIP REQUIREMENTS IN KOREA

All pets must be registered at the nearest VTF within 10 days of arrival or purchase and are required to have an ISO compatible microchip (standard 11784 or 11785) regardless if they live on base or off. Off base pet owners must register or license their pets at the nearest city hall.

PET IMPORTATION REQUIREMENTS

Please visit the Republic of Korea Quarantine Inspection Agency at <http://www.qia.go.kr> to answer all official quarantine and importation concerns or questions. The Republic of Korea has decided to modify the proposed changes to their pet importation requirements and the implementation of the rabies

titer requirements (FAVN testing) prior to importation has been postponed until at least December 2012. The current requirements that remain in effect for Korea are as follows:

Pets must be microchipped with an ISO compatible microchip (standard 11784 or 11785), and have a valid USDA health certificate within 10 days of flight arrival and current rabies vaccination which is at least 30 days old but less than 12 months old regardless if the vaccine is a 3 year duration vaccination. Pets less than 3 months of age are not required a rabies vaccination. Pets with an invalid rabies certificate or rabies vaccination will be placed in quarantine for up to 30 days at owner expense. It is recommended that you use a military or USDA authorized veterinarian, as they are representatives of the USDA and can issue the certificates directly to you. If no military vet or authorized civilian vet is available, a regular vet can issue the Health Certificate, but you will have to send it to the nearest USDA department for an authorizing signature. If you have met the above requirements and still encounter pet problems at the Incheon airport, please ask airline or airport officials to contact the USFK Incheon Customs Office or call 0505-723-7561, Monday-Friday 0800-1700hrs. After duty hours or on weekends and holidays, contact the USFK Customs Senior On-Duty Officer at 010-8834-0267.

WHEN PET QUARANTINE IS REQUIRED

Quarantine is only for pets that do not meet pet import requirements above. All dogs and cats that require quarantine will be placed in quarantine by the Quarantine Inspection Agency either near the Incheon Airport or the Yongsan Pet Care Center which is an official quarantine facility. Following release from quarantine the pet must be registered as list above.

PET AIRLINE TRAVEL

Ask your airline about the breed, size and weight restrictions on your pet (some airlines will not transport certain 'snub nosed/short muzzle' breeds). Confirm measurements and the type of travel kennel/carrier the airline will allow (some kennels may be too large for the airplane cargo hold). In most cases, animals are not allowed to be transported during extreme temperatures in the summer and winter (not all cargo holds are temperature controlled). Most airlines will not fly animals in the hottest part of the summer months (please see your VTF for a letter of acclimation and be prepared to take early flights when possible). However, some airlines will waive all temperature regulations for your initial PCS into Korea with a letter of acclimation, or if the flight is direct and the plane does not have any layover on the hot tarmac. It is also recommended

P

that you attach the following to the pet's cage:

- Unit Forwarding Address in Korea
- 1 copy of the Rabies Certificate
- 1 copy of the Health Certificate
- 1 copy of your flight itinerary
- 1 copy of orders assigning you to Korea
- Feeding schedule for your pet
- Personal Information about your pet

VEHICULAR PET TRAVEL

Most taxi cab services will not transport pets in South Korea. Shuttle bus services between installations will allow pet transportation based on space available. If the pet can ride in the lap of the owner inside a carrier then there will be no additional charge. However, if the animal is large enough to require its own seat then you will be required to purchase ticket(s) for the seat space occupied. No pets are authorized to travel underneath the bus as baggage. Small animals can travel on the free military shuttle that travels to and from the Incheon Airport and Dragon Hill Lodge at USAG Yongsan. However, large and giant breed animals must be transported via pet broker or pre-coordinated travel arrangements (see unaccompanied pet travel and pet brokers section). The rail system in South Korea can only allow toy or small animals due to space in the rail cars and hallways. Please verify approval of vehicular pet travel before attempting movement to reduce frustration.

UNACCOMPANIED PET TRAVEL AND PET BROKERS

When pets travel to and from Korea as cargo without the owner there can be complicating circumstances at the Incheon Airport with getting animals from the airline and going through customs. Airline regulations regarding transport of animals tend to change frequently so confirm the current regulations before travel. Try to have your pet accompany you on your flight to Korea if possible. If your pet flies separately, the cost could be as high as \$3,000 for giant breeds. If your pet is traveling unaccompanied then a Bill of Lading or Certificate of Excess Baggage is required with the original signature in addition to pet importation documents and Korean Won to pay for fees. Therefore, it is recommended that you consider using an animal or pet broker that will serve as your representative to negotiate the process for you. In addition to using the Pet Care Center as a broker the following links concerning commercial pet travel brokers are listed informational purposes only.

- **English website:**

AQIS - <http://www.aqis.co.kr/index.php?siteLang=eng>

Korea Animal Transport - [http://www.cwhospital.com/kat/process\(eng\).htm](http://www.cwhospital.com/kat/process(eng).htm)

The First Class Pet - www.thefirstclasspet.com

- **Korean website:**

HSGL - http://www.hsgl.co.kr/content.php?cont=menu4_1

VESCO - <http://www.vesco.kr/home2/htm/main.htm>

ON BASE HOUSING

Government and civilian housing policies differ as to authorization, number, and types of pets; however, only 2 pets per household are authorized transport in the event of a Pet Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO). At USAG –Yongsan the following housing areas allow two domestic pets: Helo Acres, Watkins Ridge, Krzyzowski Hill (Itaewon Acres), Koelsch Grove (Eagle Grove) and Loring Village (Black Hawk Village). Burke Towers and Hannam Village in Yongsan are “no-pet” housing areas and there are no exceptions. Off base Korean apartments can be found that allow pets but the availability can be limited and sometimes difficult to acquire. Off base housing also does not always accommodate large pets and they generally do not provide areas for walking pets. Statements of Non-Availability (SNA) for off post housing are not always an option because of available housing on post. Therefore, it is possible that you may be required to accept housing that does not accept pets. Pets are not permitted in the Dragon Hill Lodge so make sure that either your sponsor will host your pet or you have reservations at the Pet Care Center (see below).

PET NON-COMBATANT EVACUATION OPERATION (NEO) IN KOREA

Pets cannot and will not be abandoned during a Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO). USFK will make reasonable efforts to evacuate pets of DoD affiliated personnel. Only 2 pets per household are authorized transport in the event of a NEO. All non-combatants must realize that the evacuation of people will always take priority over pets and under such circumstances those pets are likely to be separated from their families during an evacuation. These pets are registered and tracked by the NEO Tracking System so that they can be reunited with their families. All single or unaccompanied pet owners need to ensure they have a pet care plan in the event of a NEO to ensure pets will be evacuated off peninsula to include the designated guardian, carrier transport service (pet broker), and care giver at the final destination (please see your unit NEO warden on arrival).

• Each pet must have its own rigid (no soft) FAA approved airline carrier that is large enough for them to stand up, turn around and lay down only. Pets cannot be combined into one carrier.

• 2 Copies of valid Rabies Certificates DD2208 (May 2008) or NASPHV FORM 51 (revised 2007) will be maintained in your NEO book (kit).

• PET NEO Card.

• 2 Prefilled out Veterinary Health Certificates DD2209 without the veterinary signature or date in your NEO book (kit). Any pets leaving Korea will require a veterinarian to sign and date the health certificates before departure.

• Prepare at least 10 days of food supply and medications in waterproof containers or Ziploc bags (if required).

• Bowls for food and water that do not spill easily.

• Have a well-fitting collar/harness with ID tag and a good leash.

• Small plastic bags for feces disposal. Cat owners need a 10-day supply of litter and a small compact container with lid for litter storage that can fit in the cat kennel to prevent spillage when not in use by the pet in the carrier.

• All pets must be microchipped per USFK Regulation 40-5.

In the event pet owners decide to transport their pets out of country commercially, all costs associated with commercial transportation are the sole responsibility of that family. If the U.S. government transports a pet on a military or chartered aircraft, the military covers only the cost of transporting the animal from Korea to the first CONUS port of entry. The family will then be responsible for all costs incurred from that site to the family's final destination. For more information or NEO forms visit the 106th Medical Detachment (VSSD) website at <http://www.korea.amedd.army.mil/veterinary/index.html>.

DANGEROUS DOG RESTRICTIONS

Currently there are no dangerous dog restrictions for South Korea. The trend to outlaw the ownership of certain breeds of animals began in 1991 in the United Kingdom. All animals have the innate ability to bite people despite domestication. There are both environmental and genetic components to animal behavior. The Animal Bite Prevention Program has not shown an increase in tendency of any one specific breed to bite more than another breed. Dangerous dog ordinances tend to target large animals with strong muscles for biting that do more damage during a bite incident. However, if you own an American Staffordshire Bull Terrier (Amstaff), Bull Terrier, Argentinean Dogo, Japanese Tosa, Staffordshire Bull Terrier (English Staff), Pit Bull Terrier, Brazilian Fila and Rottweiler including mixed dogs that appear to be a predominant breed

listed then you should verify that there are not specific breed restrictions at your new duty location prior to PCSing.

PCS FROM KOREA WITH A PET

As soon as you have information regarding your next duty station, please consult with the Veterinary Treatment Facility and visit <http://www.korea.amedd.army.mil/veterinary/index.html> to allow for adequate time to meet any new requirements of your follow-on assignment. Transporting your pet to Europe, Hawaii, Japan and several other destinations requires planning six months prior to your move date. These countries want current rabies vaccinations and additional blood work before a pet can be imported. The Veterinary Treatment Facility can provide detailed procedures for you to follow to ensure that your pet can move with you. Note: The cost of transporting your pet to your new duty station is your responsibility regardless of command sponsorship.

PET CARE: EXERCISE, BOARDING AND GROOMING SERVICES

USAG-Yongsan South Post has a Pet Care Center (Building 5256, 736-6426) that provides grooming and boarding services in addition to being an official quarantine facility for the Republic of Korea. The Pet Care Center is closed on Sundays and holidays. Hours of operation are 10am to 7pm. Monday to Friday and 10am to 5pm on Saturday. The staff can also function as a pet broker and will pick your pet up at the airport, clear customs, and deliver to the Pet Care Center for a fee. The Pet Care Center is not part of the Vet Clinic and is located in a different area on South Post. Adjacent to the Pet Care Center is a very nice dog park for supervised off lease dog exercise. The park is open every day 5am-10pm. This is a wonderful place for those living off-post to exercise and socialize their dogs. Note that pets are not allowed on ball fields, tennis courts, and basketball courts even if on a leash. Please observe the rules of 'petiquette' posted in the exercise park:

- Owners are responsible and liable for their pets actions
- Owners must pick-up and dispose of all pet waste
- Aggressive or pets in-heat are not allowed in the park
- Pet owners may have up to two dogs with them per visit

PET ADOPTION

There are many options to acquire a pet both on and off your local installation.

Most VTFs handle the adoption of strays including many pure breeds. If you can't find a pet on base then you have several options for purchasing a pet off base. The first option is to get a strip map from the VTF to the local Korean Animal Shelters near each base. You can also visit <http://www.korea.amedd.army.mil/veterinary/index.html> for driving directions. If the local animal shelter doesn't have the pet you are seeking then you should begin to check out the local pet stores. However, just like in the United States, there are things to be aware of before purchasing a pet off-base. Pet stores and breeders are not regulated on facility sanitation or animal medical prerequisites, so there can be outbreaks of very serious and sometimes fatal diseases due to various husbandry issues, such as distemper, parvovirus, skin conditions, upper respiratory infections, malnourishment and genetic diseases. In fact, across the peninsula, VTFs will see periodic fluctuations of sick puppies or kittens, often so sick that they die within a few weeks after purchase for various reasons.

So, how can you reduce this occurrence of early animal death? First, you should only buy a pet from a store that is clean in appearance and free from offending odors. Second, you should make sure the animal is eating, drinking, defecating, and urinating normally before you buy it. If it is a puppy or kitten, it should be alert and responsive with a bright attitude and demonstrate a healthy weight based on the breed. The runt of the litter is cute but may indicate there might be a problem. Third, you should ask what the store policy is concerning return or payment of medical bills for animals in the event that they become sick shortly after purchase. Finally, after you make your purchase you should immediately schedule them for a visit with the VTF for vaccines and deworming, but don't let them run around other animals or areas where other animals frequent for several weeks until they are properly vaccinated.

Every year during the PCS season, owners struggle to find new home for animals they no longer want or can care for due to a PCS. Please research how much the airlines charge to ship pets in addition to reading the Dangerous Dog section prior to obtaining a pet so you are aware of the potential complications of pet ownership. Finally, remember that pet adoption should be for the life of the pet and not the length of a PCS.

POST EXCHANGE (PX) See Shopping.

POSTAL SERVICES

The APO (Army Post Office) processes all mail coming to and from the Armed Forces Pacific (AP) Region, of which Korea is a part. Sending mail to and from

this region costs the same as continental United States postal rates. Other carriers such as Fed Ex and UPS deliver to Korea at international rates. Several USPS mail drop boxes are located throughout Yongsan. Priority Mail gets to and from the States in about 4 to 10 days. Parcel post takes 6-8 weeks. Priority mail flat rate boxes are available in several sizes and the shipping cost is around \$9-15 regardless of weight. The postal employees are very friendly and helpful and will do their best to help you get your mail where it needs to go and in the time frame you need it there.

General Delivery is available for those not serviced by a unit mailroom. Applications and specific details are available from the South Post Annex. Limited individual postal boxes are available for select South Post family residents and retirees, and are located at the Postal Service Center (PSC) (adjacent to the South Post Annex Postal Service Center, 738-4412).

Main Post Office (between the library and Gallery, 723-3460/4659/9019, 9am-5pm Mon-Fri; 9am-1pm Sat and training holidays).

South Post Annex (corner of Bldg 4200, near the Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop, 738-4412, 10am-4pm Mon, Tues, Wed, and Fri; Parcel pick up only Thurs, Sat and Sun 10am-12:30).

PRODUCE See *Shopping - What to Buy*.

PUBLIC RESTROOMS

There are many public restrooms throughout Seoul. Many of them are in-ground toilets. However, Korea has had a policy for the past ten years that any new building must have western-style toilets installed, so they are becoming easier to find. Most large department stores, fast food restaurants and modern buildings now have them. If you must use a local facility, ask “Hwa-jahng-shil o-dee-eh i-suh-yuh” (Where is the restroom?). It is also helpful to carry a small tissue packet for restrooms that do not have toilet paper. Foreigners sometimes miss paper in bathrooms because it is often in large dispensers located outside of individual toilet stalls similar in size to a paper towel dispenser.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION For more information, see *Transportation in A to Z*.

PYEONGTAEK is a city south of Seoul, home to USAG-Humphreys and near Osan Air Base.

R

RATION CONTROL & BLACK MARKET

The Ration Control Program exists to prevent the transfer of duty-free goods to those who are not entitled to receive them. Active duty military members need only present their military ID when making purchases. However, Ration Control Plates (RCP) are required for family members entitled to make AAFES or Commissary purchases.

To receive a Ration Control Card, you must first be entered into the D.B.I.D.S system (located with the ID Card issuing section Bldg 4034 (19th Personnel Company), adjacent to the Ration Control desk, DSN 738-4612). The sponsor must accompany all family members to the Ration Control Office (in 19th Personnel Company) with their ID cards. Ration cards will be ready for pick up in about four hours. You may show a copy of your sponsor's orders to purchase anything before obtaining your RCP. RCPs must be presented when entering duty free facilities (e.g., Class VI stores, AAFES gas station, PX and commissary) when an ID checker is present. When an ID checker is not present at the entrance to a duty free facility, the cards must be presented at the point of sale (this includes items at the Chosun Gift Shop). Consider keeping your receipts for large ticket items in case questions are raised about your buying habits. You will be given information on the current rules and regulations concerning black marketing during in processing. Remember, you may not purchase items in excess of your immediate family needs. Many products are considered illegal for gift giving to Korean Nationals. For questions regarding the sale of controlled items or gifts to personnel not authorized duty free import privileges, contact the Ration Control Office (Bldg 4034 (19th Personnel Company), Room 105, 738-4612) for information on proper legal procedures. Information is also available from USFK regulations 643-1 and 60-1.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

There are many religious programs available to our community, tailored to meet the unique needs of all military and DoD civilian personnel and their families (Religious Support Office, 738-3011, or the South Post Chapel, 738-3917). Most chapels offer a variety of activities for all age groups to include

religious education programs, choirs, Bible study groups and various chapel sponsored organizations. The ministry teams of the Army, Navy and Air Force in Korea also offer a wide variety of religious services and worship opportunities to military members and their families. Chaplains offer daily morning devotions on AFN Monday through Friday. Also available are: counseling services, marriage enrichment programs along with outreach programs for non-command sponsored spouses and family members.

In addition to the chapels, the Eighth Army Religious Retreat Center is a one-of-a-kind facility operated by the Chaplains of Korea. Unit chaplains and denominational groups offer religious retreats regularly at a minimal cost. The retreat center and chapel is located on mountain site in the heart of Seoul and provides lodging, recreational activities, meeting rooms and an excellent dining hall. There are a number of religious programs in the metropolitan area that welcome new members.

Bible Studies and Religious Clubs: There are a large variety of bible studies and religious clubs offered on post (call South Post Chapel 738-6054 for a current listing). A small sampling includes AWANA, Military Council of Catholic Women (MCCW), Men of the Morning Calm, PWOC, Vacation Bible School, Club Beyond, and various bible studies.

Chaplain Family Life Center (CFLC) (Bldg 5213, South Post 736-3018). CFLC provides confidential counseling for individuals, couples, families, and groups to include complex life challenges, gambling and eating addictions, trauma recovery, battlefield stress, sexual assault and domestic violence.

On Post Religious Services

South Post Chapel (Bldg 3702 across from the Dragon Hill Lodge, 738-6054/4043)

Protestant “Contemporary”	Sunday	0900
Protestant “Nondenominational”	Sunday	1100
Protestant “Gospel”	Sunday	1300
Mision Penecostal Hispana Monte Sion	Sunday	1500
Jewish	Friday	1900

Memorial Chapel (Bldg 1597, Main Post, 725-4076/8182)

Catholic Mass	Sunday	0800
Protestant “Liturgical”	Sunday	0930
Catholic Mass	Sunday	1130
United Pentecostal Church International	Sunday	1330

Catholic Reconciliation	Saturday	1600
Catholic Mass	Saturday	1700
Catholic Daily Mass	Mon-Fri	1145
Katusa Worship	Tuesday	1830
Catholic Mass/Blessed Virgin Mary	1st Sat of month	0900
Korean Christain Fellowship Association	3rd Tue of month	1145
ROK Catholic Mass	3rd Thu of month	1800

Hannam Village (Bldg 6108, 723-4524)

Protestant Contemporary	Sunday	0930
-------------------------	--------	------

Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital Chapel (737-5000)

Protestant Traditional	Sunday	0930
Episcopal	Sunday	1100
Seventh Day Adventist	Saturday	0930

K-16 Chapel (Bldg S-302, 741-6687)

Protestant Contemporary	Sunday	1030
-------------------------	--------	------

Off Post Religious Services

Protestant

- International Lutheran Church, 726-39 Hannam-Dong, Yongsan-Gu, Sun 0830/1100, 02-794-6274
- Jubilee Church, Sun 1000/1330
- Kwang Lim Methodist Church, 571-2 Shinsa-Dong, Kangnam-Gu, Sun 0900, 02-546-0151/0152
- Onnuri Community Church, Sun 1130/1630
- Seoul International Baptist Church, Sun 1100, 02-793-6268
- Seoul Union Church, Sun 0930, 02-333-7393
- Yoido Full Gospel, Sun 1045/1800, 02-783-4135
- Yongsan Baptist Church, Itaewon-Dong (near Crown Hotel), Sun 1100/1800, 02-796-0284
- Yongsak Presbyterian Church 2069 Jeo-dong, Chung-ku, Sun 1000/1500, 02-2280-0228
- Victory Christian Fellowship 181-8 Itaewon-dong, Yongsan-gu, Sun 0915/1700, 02-703-7418

Roman Catholic

- Catholic International Parish of Seoul, across from Hannam Village Apts, 02-793-2070.
- Myeongdong Cathedral Myeongdong, Chung-Gu, 02-774-3890.
- The Catholic International Parish 707 Hannam-Dong, 02-715-0141.
- St. Francis Chapel Hannam-Dong, Yongsan-Gu, 02-793-2070.
- Cathedral & Parish Church of St. Mary & St. Nicholas, 02-724-6597.

Orthodox

- St. Nicholas Cathedral, Some services are in English, some in Greek. 02-365-3755.

Mormon

- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints English, President P.J. Rogers, 02-723-3081.

Buddhist

- Lotus Lantern Int'l Buddhist Center Ceremonies in English, 735-5347.
- Seoul International Zen Center English, Meditation and Dharma talk, 02-900-4326.

Islam

- Seoul Central Masjid Juma Prayers conducted in Korean, Arabic and English. Services are held at the mosque in Hannam-dong, Yongsan 02-794-7307.

Jehovah's Witness

- Jehovah's Witnesses Seoul English Congregation. Meetings held Friday and Sunday, the Kingdom Hall is in the Hannam Building, across from the Cheil Communications building.

REPAIRS See *Shopping - Special Interest*.

S

SCHOOLS

If you are coming to Korea as a command-sponsored family, your children are eligible to attend the Department of Defense Dependent Schools located on Yongsan South Post. Non command-sponsored children are accommodated on a space available basis. School buses are provided to certain areas off post. Please check at the school registration office in the ACS building for bus schedules and pick up locations. Seoul American Elementary School (SAES), Seoul American Middle School (SAMS), and Seoul American High School (SAHS) are fully accredited schools that offer a wide variety of classes and services, including classes for talented and gifted, special education and English as a second language. General school registration is held in June. Check the websites for online pre-registration process.

Korea District Superintendent's Office

U.S. Eighth Army Garrison, Yongsan
Email: KoreaSUPT_DSO@pac.dodea.edu
Phone: 738-5922
From the U.S: 011-82-2-7918-5922
Web Site: www.korea.pac.dodea.edu

Seoul American Elementary School (grades K-5, PSCD-Preschool Service for Children with Disabilities, and Sure Start)

Email: principal.seouls@pac.dodea.edu
Phone: 736-4613/5978
From the U.S: 011-82-2-7916-4613
Web Site: www.seoul-es.pac.dodea.edu

Seoul American Middle School (grades 6-8)

Email: PRINCIPAL_SEOULMS@pac.dodea.edu
Phone: 736-7337/7361
From the U.S: 011-82-2-7916-7337/7361
Web Site: www.seoul-ms.pac.dodea.edu

Seoul American High School (grades 9-12)

Email: PRINCIPAL_SEOULHS@pac.dodea.edu

Phone: 736-5261/5263/5265

From the U.S: 011-82-2-7918-5261/5263

Web Site: www.seoul-hs.pac.dodea.edu

Registration:(DoDDS Seoul Registration Office, ACS Bldg 4106, 738-7707).

Only a sponsor or spouse may register the children for school. Hand carry all school records when you PCS. You can only register for school when you are physically in Korea. For registration you need the following:

- Shot Records. The Immunization Clinic at the Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital will ensure they are up to date.

- Orders. One copy of the sponsor's orders verifying command sponsorship (must have dependent's name on orders).

- Birth certificate or passport. Kindergarten and first grade students only.

- High School students should report to the High School to sign up for classes with the guidance counselor before the school year begins.

Bus Transportation: Provided for students who live in designated areas (Bus Transportation Office, Bldg 3706, Room 103, 738-5032 for current information).

Bus passes will be issued only to a parent. You will need to show paperwork verifying that your student is registered.

JROTC Program: (738-7421/7423) The JROTC program of the Seoul American High School (SAHS) is vibrant, with generally more than 70 ROTC/Academy Scholarships awarded annually.

OTHER DoDDS in Korea: DoDDS Pacific Schools on the Korean Peninsula are constantly being upgraded. New schools are also being introduced in some areas.

Chinhae, U.S. Navy Base, Command Fleet Activities, Korea

CT Joy Elementary School www.ctjoy-es.pac.dodea.edu

DSN: 762-5466/5477, from US: 011-82-55-540-5466

Fax DSN: 762-5465, Fax from US: 011-82-55-540-5465

Email: PRINCIPAL_*JOYES2@pac.dodea.edu

USAG-Daegu, Daegu

Daegu American School, K-12 www.daegu-un.pac.dodea.edu

DSN: 768-9501, from US: 011-82-53-473-4354

Fax DSN: 768-7787, Fax from US: 011-82-53-470-7787

Email: principal_daeguehs@pac.dodea.edu

USAG-Humphreys, Pyongtaek

Humphreys American School, K-8 www.humphreys-es.pac.dodea.edu

DSN: 753-6313, from US: 011-82-31-690-6313

Fax DSN: 753-8992, Fax from US: 011-82-31-690-8992

Email: PRINCIPAL_*HUMPHREYES@pac.dodea.edu

Osan Air Base, Osan

Osan American Elementary School, www.osan-es.pac.dodea.edu

DSN: 784-6912, from US: 011-82-31-661-6912

Fax DSN: 784-5733, Fax from US: 011-82-31-661-5733

Email: PRINCIPAL.OSANES@pac.dodea.edu

Osan American Middle School, www.osan-ms.pac.dodea.edu

DSN: 784-2282, from US: 011-82-31-661-2282

Osan American High School www.osan-hs.pac.dodea.edu

DSN: 784-9076/9098/9096, from US: 011-82-31-661-9098

Fax: DSN: 784-9121, Fax from US: 011-82-31-661-9121

Email: PRINCIPAL.OSANHS@pac.dodea.edu

USAG-Casey, Dongduchon

Casey American School, K-8 www.casey-es.pac.dodea.edu

DSN: 730-6444, from the US: 011-82-505-730-6444

Email: principal@pac.dodea.edu

PRESCHOOLS AT USAG -YONGSAN

There are three schooling options available on-post for preschool age children. Register as soon as possible, because space is very limited and classes fill quickly.

- **Sure Start:** A program designated for children ages 3 and 4 of parents ranked E-7 or GS6 and below or children who otherwise qualify (736-4378, program runs Mon-Fri 8am-12pm). There is no fee for enrollment. Parents are encouraged to commit to a minimum number of volunteer hours.

- **Yongsan Child Development Center:** Offers a part-day preschool program for children ages 3-5 (See Child Youth and School Services in A to Z; Central Registration, 738-5036).

- **Mustard Seed Christian Preschool:** A South Post Chapel program (Classes for four-year olds meet Mon/Wed/Fri, classes for three-year olds meet Tues/Thurs. Morning sessions 8:15-11:15am, afternoon sessions 12:15-3:15pm, 738-8503/4220).

HOMESCHOOLING INFORMATION - There is a homeschooling group at Yongsan, which includes co-op. Look for homeschooling information on their private Facebook page: Seoul American Homeschool Network: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/286732984689476/>

Other links:

www.usdla.org

Homeschool.com

SEOUL FOREIGN SCHOOLS (Many of the foreign schools require admission tests.)

Yongsan International School Seoul (YISS) is a Christian school located in Hannam, 10-15 minutes east of Yongsan Garrison. The school has kindergarten through 12th grades, with approximately 70 students in each grade. <http://www.yisseoul.org/> 02-797-5104

Centennial Christian School (CCS) is a Christian school located in Yongsan-gu and offers a US-style education for preschool through grade 12. www.ccsliions.com 02 772-9275

Korean Kent Foreign School offers offers a US-style education K-12th. www.kkfs.org 02 2201 7091

Seoul Academy International School offers a US-style education K-8th. www.seoulacademy.net 02 554-1690

Seoul Foreign School (SFS) offers a US-style education and a British education K-12th.

www.seoulforeign.org 02 330 3100

SEOUL PRESCHOOLS:

Early Childhood Learning Center International School located in Hannamdong

www.eclcseoul.com 02 795 8418

Franciscan School located in Hannamdong [Http://franciscanschool.com](http://franciscanschool.com) 02 798 2195

British International Kindergarten located in Seocho-dong

www.englishedseoul.com 02 790 9025

Namsan International School located in Sinsa-dong

www.nsis.or.kr 02 2232 2451/2



Seoul American Middle School – Photo by Mary Soergel



Seoul American High School – Photo by Mary Soergel

S

SCOUTS

Active scouting programs are available for boys and girls. Adult volunteers are welcome. Registration drives begin in the fall. Check with the school office, Channel 3 and Morning Calm for flyers and current contact information.

Girl Scouts: The Girl Scout Hut is next to the furniture store on South Post. 738-6131 or gs.occ.seoul@gmail.com, www.westpacificgirlscouts.com or www.girlscouts.org/overseas.

Boy Scouts: The Boy Scout Hut is located in Bldg S3646 next to South Post Chapel, 738-4860, boyscout@zama.army.mil, Far East Council www.fareastbsa.org.

SKIING See *Travel in Korea*.

SOFA

The Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) is the treaty between the American and Korean governments that ensures certain privileges and rights to American military members and their families in the Republic of Korea. The SOFA covers all aspects of the American presence in Korea and is continually reviewed and revised by a bi-national committee. American passports with the A-3 visa stamp should be stamped with a SOFA stamp also. Family members whose passports are not stamped with a SOFA stamp may experience detainment or fines when re-entering Korea. This stamp is NOT automatic, and you must obtain it within 90 days of arriving in Korea. Both command and non-command sponsored family members need this stamp.

A3 Visa/SOFA Stamp is for Active Duty Family Members, Civilians Employees and their Family Members (command sponsored or non command sponsored) must have an A3 Visa and SOFA Stamp within 90 days of arrival in country. 2ID family members receive their SOFA Stamp through the 2ID Liaison NCOIC at the 19th Personnel Company (19PC) Building (4034), DSN: 723-5461. Legal Client Services at ACS will review applications for A3 Visa and/or SOFA Stamp and will assist with directions to go to one of the three convenient Seoul Immigration Office locations. Client Legal Services assistance is on a walk-in basis during normal duty hours. The Korean Immigration offices are at Sejongno, Mokdong and Osan Air Base. You must have your passport, ID card, copy of identification card (front and back), copy of sponsor's ID card, the Ministry of Justice Supplemental Visa Application Form, and an original Letter of Verification of Assignment to receive the Korean Immigration Stamp. The SOFA Stamp should be valid until your sponsor's DEROS date or the expiration date on the Sponsor's ID card, or the expiration of the individual's passport (maximum of 2 years from

S

the date your A-3 Visa/SOFA stamp is issued). If your A3 Visa and/or SOFA Stamp expires while in Korea, the Visa and Stamp will need to be reissued. Check: <http://8tharmy.korea.army.mil/sja/clientlegalsvc/>. You will find information on the process, detailed directions to Immigration offices, and forms.

SPACE AVAILABLE FLIGHTS

Space Available Flights, also referred to as Space 'A' Travel or Patriot Express, is air travel that is offered at a highly reduced cost to active and retired members of the military as well as qualifying members of their families. Space 'A' Travel is possible if seats remain available after military personnel traveling under orders receive their seats. There are various restrictions governing Space 'A' travel so familiarity with these guidelines is highly recommended.

A key starting point for first time and repeat Space 'A' Travelers is the Air Mobility Command website at www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/index.asp. This site offers comprehensive information on Space 'A' Travel including travel eligibility, available destinations, document requirements, registration guidelines and a wealth of other relevant material.

In Korea, Space 'A' Travel is provided at Osan and Kunsan Air Bases. Osan Air Base is located one hour south of Seoul and is conveniently and inexpensively reached by bus service departing from Yongsan's Moyer Bus Terminal or the Dragon Hill Lodge. Travel information specific to flights to or from Korea can be obtained by visiting the Osan Air Base website at www.osan.af.mil/units/731stairmobilitysquadron.asp or the USFK website at www.usfk.mil/usfk/hot-topic.patriot.express.470. However, to ensure the most accurate and up to date information, travelers should speak directly to personnel at the Osan Passenger Terminal. The terminal opens at 6:00am Tue/Thu and 7:00am Mon/Wed/Fri. The terminal closes at 6:00 pm. For calls originating in Korea use: DSN 315-784-1854 (fax 315-784-4897) or from any cell phone, 031-661-1854. For calls from an international location use: 011-82-31-661-1854 (fax 011-82-31-661-4897). Email contact is also possible at OsanSpaceA@Osan.af.mil.

The passenger terminal at Osan Air Base is newly renovated with excellent modern facilities including a spacious, well-equipped play area for families traveling with children. There are also free-to-use computer terminals and phone lines. The passenger terminal is a short walk from the bus station. The Space 'A' flights depart from Osan Air Base and arrive in the United States at Seattle International Airport. Connections from Seattle are via regular commercial airlines. Connecting commercial flights are not part of Space 'A' Travel and are at the traveler's personal expense.

Here are the basic steps for successful Space 'A' Travel.

1. Identify your eligibility travel category.
 2. Determine your departure and arrival points, and intended travel dates.
 3. Prepare required documentation and obtain requisite authorization.
 4. Register with the Passenger Terminal (the earlier this is done, the better).
- Be sure to register for both your departing flight and your return flight.
5. Call the Passenger Terminal 24-48 hours prior to departure date to receive flight status updates, required "show-time" and projected seat availability.
 6. Check-in at the Passenger Terminal on flight departure date. Be sure you have ALL required travel documents (ie. Passport, ID card, authorized letter to travel and any other documents you were instructed to bring.)
 7. Listen for the seats available announcement. If you are selected for a space available seat, be prepared to check-in immediately.
 8. Board the plane and have a great flight!

To ensure you have a positive Space 'A' Travel experience, keep in mind that Space 'A' Travel is not a reliable means of transportation. Unlike commercial airlines there are usually no backup flights if a plane is diverted. There are also no guarantees that seats will be available. This means travelers must be flexible and if necessary prepared with an alternative travel plan. If you keep this in mind, and follow all the required guidelines, you will no doubt find that Space 'A' Travel is well worth the money you save.

SUBWAY See *Transportation in A to Z*.

SWIMMING

There are four swimming pools on post. Swimming Pool 3 is covered for year round use and located on Main Post (just before Camp Coiner, 725-6984). The Point Health Club at the Dragon Hill Lodge also has a year round pool (available to hotel guests and fee paying members of The Point). The two outdoor pools are located next to the high school (South Post, 738-4537) and at the Hannam Village Housing area (723-6849/6847), respectively. The swimming season for these two pools runs from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. A fifth pool is located adjacent to the gymnasium on K-16 Air Base, and is open year round to all ID card holders.

T

TELEPHONES

The telephone/internet provider you use will depend on where you live.

On Post Housing: You must first establish line connectivity by visiting the 41st Signal Battalion (Bldg 2320, 738-6900). The telephone/internet provider for Yongsan housing areas (including Hannam Village and K-16 Air Base) is LG Dacom (1st floor, Moyer CAC, 723-7023/7030 or 02-6355-5000) or Korea Telecom (KT) located off post, 02-797-0060. LG Dacom offers several different plans as well as VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) phone numbers. This is a U.S. phone number that friends and family can use to call you at U.S. local/long distance rates instead of expensive international rates. You can even request the area code where your family lives, so all calls to you will be local calls. If your current telephone/internet provider is KT, you are not required to switch to LG Dacom. However, the VOIP is only available through LG Dacom. Providers and options continue to change, so check the plans and fees carefully.

Off Post Housing: Your telephone/internet provider will be Korea Telecom (KT) (exit Gate 14, walk to the main road and turn right. The office is a short distance up this road on the right, 02-797-0060). You can make bill payments on post at the Business One Stop Center (above Starbucks in the Embassy Association building) or at the following locations for a small service fee: 7 Eleven, Family Mart, or any Post Office.

If you do not have a telephone in your quarters, there are overseas telephone lines available for use at MCAC and at the USO. You can use the phones and pay for calls in dollars, won or by using pre-paid telephone cards. The USO also has CALL FOR FREE phones at Camp Kim (contact them at 724-7003/3301). You can use pre-paid phone cards at all local pay telephones and in Korean cell phones. For additional information see Cell Phones in A to Z.

Telephone Dialing Information

Offices and some housing areas in the Yongsan area have Defense Switching Network (DSN) phones. These have seven digits. The Yongsan Post is divided into six areas with six different prefixes: 723, 724, 725, 736, 737 and 738.

Hannam Village prefix: 749.

K-16 prefix: 741.

Cell phones prefixes: 010, 011, 016, 017 and 018.

Calling Within Korea

From a Military Phone:

To a military phone number in Korea, dial the seven digit number direct.

To a commercial phone or cell phone, dial 99 then the number.

From a Commercial or a Cell Phone:

To call a military phone, dial 0505 then the seven digit number.

To call a commercial phone from a cell phone, dial 02 then the number.

Calling Seoul Phone Numbers from the U.S

From the U.S. to a commercial phone in Seoul, dial 1-011-822-XXX-XXXX.

From the U.S. to a cell phone in Seoul, dial 1-011-82+last two prefix digits + rest of phone number.

From the U.S. to a military phone in Seoul, dial 1-011-822-791X-XXXX.

TELEVISION

MWR Cable Television (MWR CATV) is available to those living on post (ACS Bldg 4106, Room 236, 738-5163, 8am-12pm/1pm-4:30pm; or Bldg 4891, South Post, beyond the Auto Skills Center, 738-2288/4310). A variety of American Forces Network (AFN), U.S. and Asian channels, along with command channels which provide community information and force protection advisories, are available. Projected weekly schedules are given in area publications such as the Stars and Stripes, Korea Herald and Korea Times. Also visit afnkorea.com/tv.htm for the latest TV schedule. Pamphlets listing channels offered and fees are available at the CATV business office. Personnel living off post will need to lease a decoder box and purchase a Direct to Home (DTH) cable TV satellite dish at the PX to receive AFN programming. Fees include an installation charge (usually between \$100-200) and a monthly decoder fees (about \$15). Installation service in the Seoul area is available through NASA, an off-post Korean company (02-717-2256/2257). NOTE: Many apartment complexes and rental properties do not permit installation of AFN DTH equipment. Refer to the list provided by the housing office. Review AFN availability carefully before entering into a lease agreement, since AFN is the source of many service force protection advisories (Military websites also carry many of the same advisories). Service members and DoD civilians who rent a property where DTH equipment installation is not available must sign a Housing Office statement of acknowledgement. If the landlord does allow installation of AFN DTH equipment on his property,

the Soldier must obtain written permission beforehand. Contact the Housing Services Office 738-3489, for more information.

Internet Television: Another television viewing option available to both on and off-post residents in Korea is via the computer. Apple TV sells and rents current season TV shows and movies (in both high definition and regular format) via the iTunes website. An Apple computer is not required for this service, but you must buy an Apple TV box (available at the PX). Internet options continue to become available.

TENNIS

Numerous courts are scattered around Main and South Posts. Adult and children's lessons are available for a fee (Collier Gym for court reservations or information, 736-4563/4588).

THEATRES

The Yongsan Players, who have performed several productions each year are on hiatus at the present time as the Community Theater was demolished this year. Future productions will be posted through local advertising. The AFN-Korea "Community Calendar" gives information daily on Yongsan concerts and activities, as well as new listings of cultural events in the area. The Seoul Word also offers weekly information about cultural events in the area.

THRIFT SHOP

Volunteers from the American Women's Club of Korea Thrift Shop Association operate the Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop in conjunction with the U.S military (Bldg 4222 next to the Chosun Gift Shop, 02-795-7675 or email welfare_awctsa1@hotmail.com, Mon/Sat 10am-3pm, Wed 10am-6pm; consignments are by appointment only). The Thrift Shop, a non-profit organization, offers a wide range of resale items, including clothing, electronic equipment and furniture. All are welcome to shop and/or donate items. Donations are taken during store hours. A donation bin located near the side entrance of the shop is available 24 hours a day. Consignment of items is a service provided by the thrift shop, but only active American Women's Club members (See Clubs/Organizations in A-Z) or government ID card holders can consign items. Proceeds from the Thrift Shop are used to support charities in the local community and on post.

TOY ALLEY See *Shopping - Markets*.

TRANSPORTATION

On Post

Shuttle Bus: This is a free bus service which runs from the bus terminal at Moyer CAC on Main Post to Camp Coiner and the South Post areas, with stops at the hospital, various housing areas, the commissary, and various other locations. Route maps are available at ACS and Moyer CAC. The newly constructed/renovated bus stops are visible throughout the post, marked by white “shuttle bus” signs. ID cards are required to ride the bus. During duty hours, buses run every 20 minutes and then every 30 minutes until 1800. A special shuttle runs between Hannam Village and Yongsan approximately every hour. Bus schedules are posted at all of the bus stops.

Taxis: AAFES provides taxi service for use by military ID card holders (1544-9080 for taxi dispatch services, or email taxi@ftnholdings.com, call hours are 0530-2300, daily). These taxis are available for destinations both on and off post. AAFES cabs are the only taxis permitted on post. The drivers speak some English, and the fare is paid in U.S. currency or won. The taxi stands are located at Dragon Hill Lodge, BAACH, commissary, PX (during operating hours) and the bus terminal on Main Post. The company offers regular taxi service in and around the Yongsan area as well as an airport taxi service.

Military Buses: In addition to the on post shuttle bus service, there are buses that provide transportation to Osan AFB, USAG-Humphreys, USAG-Red Cloud, USAG-Casey, Camp Jackson, and all other local camps. See Camps and Posts in Korea. Tickets can be purchased at Moyer CAC.

Off Post

Public Transportation 101: Once a month and twice during the summer, ACS offers Transportation 101. This class provides classroom and “real world” experience on subways, buses and taxis. Classes fill quickly, so sign up early. All participants will receive a free T-Money card, but you should take at least ₩5,000 to load onto your card, with about another ₩10,000 for your lunch out in Seoul. The class takes brief trips to the Express Bus Terminal, Namdaemun Market, Lotte Mart store or City Hall/Chang-dok Palace. Children are welcome.

City Buses: Seoul is served by an excellent bus system. In the city, the buses are plainly numbered and run frequently to most destinations. The fare is cheap (₩1000). Buses can be extremely crowded during peak rush hours, so plan accordingly. Hotel personnel, as well as the information staff at Moyer Community Activities Center, can assist you with bus routes. The following website may be helpful: www.lifeinkorea.com/information/trans/seoul-tran.cfm. Buses and taxis use the same T-Money cards as the subway, so you can alternate payment between the bus and subway easily (see paragraph below for

more information about T-Money cards).

Subway: Seoul has a comprehensive subway system that will get you easily and quickly to almost any part of the city. Subway fares are very reasonable. At the Ticket Desk, ask for an English Subway Map. There is a list on the back of the map of the most popular places in Seoul, which exit to take once you are at the destination station, and even how long it will take to walk from that exit to your desired destination. It is a fantastic pocket guide to Seoul! The subway website is www.seoulmetro.co.kr. Click on the English link. Also see the subway map at the back of this book.

All station stops are identified by station name in Hangul and English, along with station numbers. Pay attention; announcements are made in Korean and English, but you can easily miss your stop. Look at the big center number at the station stop, the name of the Station will be listed with smaller numbers to the left and right. These small numbers indicate the station the train just left, and where the train is going next. Pay attention to which direction you want to go. Some stations signs only mention the beginning or ending of the line you are on, or line transfer station (signified by the multi-colored swirl on the map) along the way. Koreans are very helpful and will do all they can to point you in the right direction if you are lost or confused.

When you reach your destination go up the steps and swipe your card at the turnstile. Each station usually has numerous exits leading to different sides of the street. Refer to your map or look for the directory in each station, it will inform you (in English) which exit you need. The subway closes at midnight. You will be forced to leave the subway at that time, regardless of your location or destination.

Subway Etiquette: Koreans on the subway are very quiet. Be respectful of their customs by not talking too loudly. During rush hour, it can become quite congested. There are designated areas at the end of each subway car reserved for pregnant women, handicapped and the elderly. You may sit in this area if no one fitting that description needs the seat...otherwise you will be expected to give the seat to an elderly person or pregnant woman.

There are two ways to pay:

1. Buy a single journey ticket card from a ticket vending and reload machine inside the station. The single journey ticket is valid only for the subway, not for buses or taxis. Validate the ticket at the turnstile with the lighted arrow. Do not destroy or lose your ticket because you will need it to exit the subway at your destination. Return the ticket at the deposit-return machines for a refund of the W500 deposit.

2. Purchase a T-Money card (either from the subway station booth or

at convenience stores). You may purchase a card the size of a credit card or a miniature card that easily attaches to a key ring or cell phone. There are advertisements for it on the booth window, which you can point to if you encounter a language problem. You can put as much won on the card as you need (as little as ₩5,000 is enough to load the card initially). When you go to the turnstile, lay your card flat with the T sign facing up and scan it. The machine will register the amount charged for the trip and show your remaining balance. Vending machines with instructions in English are available to recharge your card.

Trains: Riding the train in Korea is a wonderful way to discover Korea without having to worry about the traffic or car problems in an unfamiliar area. A ticket office is located on Main Post (Bldg S2664, at Gate 2). There are several different trains to choose from. The KTX Train is the fastest and most comfortable way to get to Daejeon, Daegu and Busan. It costs a little more, but it is more comfortable and does not make any other stops along the way. The green and orange lines will take you to the local stops between Seoul and your destination, so the ride is somewhat longer. You can purchase tickets at Seoul Station (located just outside the subway stop of the same name). There is a ticket line designated for foreigners. For more information about the Korean National Railroad, visit www.korail.go.kr and select English.

Local Taxis: Always make sure there is a meter or negotiate a price before you get into the taxi. It is also helpful to know a few directional words when riding with Korean taxi drivers. Tipping cab drivers, like most other services in Korea, is not necessary, but accepted. AAFES taxi drivers expect a small tip. Local Korean taxis are not permitted on post, but the on post cabs will pick you up from wherever you are in and around Seoul. If you take a local taxi to Yongsan, you will be deposited outside one of the many gates leading into Main or South Post, make sure you know what gate you need. Most local taxi drivers know Yongsan if you say that, but you may end up on the other side of post so learn the landmarks! The closest subway station to where you want to go is a landmark that will be able to be communicated easily. The local taxis are medium-size cabs, usually gray or white in color and recognizable by the blue sign on the roof. They are usually quite reliable as long as you know your desired destination in Korean (have someone write it out for you in Hangul). Some cabs now carry “Free Interpretation” service with an English speaking phone interpreter to help get you to your destination. There is also a Volunteer Translation Service (02-1588-5644) called BBB that you can call for help in communicating.

Deluxe taxis: These are somewhat larger cabs, and are black with a yellow sign on the roof and the words “Deluxe Taxi” written on the side. The rates for

these cabs are double the regular taxis, but the drivers generally speak some English. Again, check for a meter and negotiate a price beforehand.

TRAVEL SERVICES See *Travel Outside of Korea - Travel Services*.

TRICARE Korea

The Department of Defense Health Care Program, www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home. Enrollment forms are available at all military treatment facilities and at the TRICARE Service Center Across from the Emergency Room at the Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital.

USAG-Yongsan: Bldg 7005, Room 1150, inside BAACH. Tricare Service Center 737-1433

USAG Humphreys: Bldg S555, inside the Health Clinic, 753-7708

USAG-Daegu: Bldg S221, inside the Wood Clinic on Camp Walker, 764-4683

U

USO (UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATION)

The USO has been in Korea since 1954. It provides a lounge, Cross Cultural School, Good Neighbor Program, language classes, information, referral, outreach services and is an excellent place to book tours in Seoul and throughout Korea. (The USO office is next to Camp Kim, across the street from Gate 17. Call 724-7003/3301 or visit www.uso.org/korea for more information. Closed Sundays.) You can also book many wonderfully exotic overseas vacations at reasonable prices. The USO also generally has a comprehensive selection of helpful guidebooks and maps (this is the go to place for information on how to get around town and travel in general).

U
T

V

VEHICLES

Pickup, Inspection and Registration: All processing, pick-up, and outbound shipments are handled through the Yongsan Vehicle Processing Center (Camp Kim, Gate 17, Bldg C-1244-CK-068, 02-798-7032/1, Mon-Fri 8am-5pm). To pick up and register a shipped vehicle, you will need your ID card, Vehicle Inspection Shipping Form (VISF-issued by port of embarkation to owner), a copy of your orders authorizing shipment to Korea, proof of ownership and insurance, the vehicle inspection certificate, and your USFK driver's license. Motorcycles/moped registration also requires Motorcycle Safety Course certification. (See Drivers License in A to Z.) After pickup, you must obtain a vehicle safety inspection from the Car Care Center at Camp Kim or the Auto Skills Center located on the hill behind Itaewon Acres housing area (turn left just before the post exit at Gate 6, then take the first left). Once your inspection is complete, take the inspection form and the completed registration forms to the Vehicle Registration office (Camp Kim, Bldg 1230, 724-5768/4811) to receive your license plates.

Buying Used Cars: Used cars for sale on post range in price from \$500 and up. Older models generally can be found for under \$3000. Newer models in good shape go for higher prices. Check the bulletin boards at the Main PX, Moyer Community Activities Center, Embassy Starbucks and the Townhouse (food court at the PX) for personal ads. There will be cars on post with for sale signs on them or check the BOSS lot, a small area in the commissary parking lot designated for private car sales. Contact the Vehicle Registration office for registration questions. These vehicles are generally appropriate to drive on post, but it is your responsibility to make sure they have a current safety inspection. Because breakdowns can be expensive, be cautious if you plan to drive a less reliable vehicle off post for long distances. Do routine maintenance. Korean law is very strict concerning car accidents. Soldiers have found themselves barred from leaving the country for minor fender benders.

Importing a New American Vehicle: You may import a new American-made vehicle during the first 6 months after your arrival in Korea if you have not already shipped one.

Importing a New Foreign Vehicle: Requires a memorandum from the Unit

Commander, this is endorsed by the PMO, and recommending approval (you must pay shipping and customs costs). American specifications are not required in Korea, but they will be if you wish to ship your vehicle stateside when you PCS.

Local Purchase: AAFES Exchange offers new car sales (near the Community Bank by the PX, at the Gallery and the Dragon Hill Lodge, exch@militarycars.com, www.encs.com). There are many dealerships off post; ensure you choose a reputable one.

Vehicle Maintenance: There are several options available for maintaining your car.

- There are several options available for maintaining your car.
- AAFES Garage - The Car Care Center (Camp Kim, 724-6037): The center can perform basic maintenance. A limited selection of parts is available at the center, and special orders can be costly. You can also purchase parts online.
- Auto Skills Center (South Post near Itaewon Acres housing area, 738-5042/5315): Mechanics are available for car inspections, oil changes, license plate mounting, etc. Vehicle owners may also complete their own oil changes and minor repairs and maintenance.
- Korean Garages: There are many garages on the economy around Yongsan. Word of mouth is generally the best way of finding a good mechanic on the economy. The Auto Skills Center may also be able to refer you to a helpful garage.

NOTE: It is against U.S. Army policy to pay a claim for items stolen from a POV unless it is something like a jack, a spare tire, a first aid kit, or a child car seat. Secure your personal property!

VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) office at Yongsan is identified as a Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) Center (Bldg 4037 near the barber shop, behind the 19th Personnel Company building and across the parking lot from the DHL, 738-5121 or toll-free 800-827-1000). The focus of the Yongsan BDD operation is to provide separating and retiring military members of all services the opportunity to start VA claims for service-connected disability compensation before they retire. Personnel also provide assistance to retirees as time allows. The VA office offers a wealth of information on health care, disability compensation, vocational rehabilitation, employment, home loan guaranty, survivors' benefits and insurance. Veterans residing on the Korean peninsula will be served by the regional office in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The correspondence address is Department of Veterans Affairs, Pittsburgh Regional

Offices, 1000 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. If you are already a veteran arriving to Korea, there is little they can do for you aside from offer you the above address. For further information, visit one of the following websites:

- www.va.gov
- www.militaryonesource.com
- www.turbotap.org
- www.vba.va.gov

VIDEO RENTAL

There are several locations to rent movies on post. They all have a good variety of movies (except on weekends) so rent early. Most new releases are rented for 3 days. South Post Shoppette Video Rental is the largest store and carries movie snacks and magazines, as well as movies to rent/buy (Bldg 4209, beside the South Post fire station, 738-7222). The Dragon Hill Lodge Shoppette and the Mini-mall Shoppette on Main Post carry a smaller selection of movies to rent in their stores. Hannam Village Video Store is located in Bldg K (723-4473). Yongsan Library has thousands of movies and television series for adults and children available to check out at no cost to you.

VISAS

The best way to get accurate information on visas is to contact the relevant embassy several months prior to the time you are interested in traveling. Conditions are constantly changing around the world, so be prepared for some travel changes. Travel agents can help groups of travelers obtain passport information and visas.

VISITORS TO KOREA

Visitors will need a valid passport. A Korean visa is not required if the period of stay in Korea is 90 days or less. Before your visitors purchase airline tickets, check with travel agents in Korea (both on and off post). Often they will be able to provide you with cheaper fares on flights from the U.S. to Korea.

Temporary Post Pass: Visitors need a pass issued so that they can have access to the post. Prior to their arrival, pick up an application form for a temporary post pass from the Law and Order office (Bldg 4305, Room 105, 738-4612, go north on the road behind the Dragon Hill Lodge, go down the hill until the road ends. Bldg 4305 is on the left, and is also the Garrison Commander's office). Return completed forms to the Pass and ID office. Pass processing and approval takes about three working days. You may request a pass for up to 30 days. When

V

you pick up the approved pass, you can also pick up a letter that will allow your visitors access to the PX and Chosun Gift shop (escorted by you) (this process can easily be done before your visitors arrive).

Once your visitors arrive in the country, take the completed paperwork, your visitors and their passports to the Pass and ID section of the Provost Marshal's Office (Camp Kim, Bldg 1230, Mon-Fri 8:30am-4pm/Closed holidays). Visitors must be present to have their thumbprint scanned for the D.B.I.D.S system. They will also have their photograph taken and will be issued a pass valid for their entire stay. If your visitors arrive after hours or on a weekend you will be able to sign them on post for a 24 hour period. You will need to re-sign them in every 24 hours until you obtain a pass for them. This can be especially inconvenient if your visitors arrive just before a long holiday weekend. Thus you may want to have your guests plan their arrival dates carefully.

Signing Visitors On Post: You will need to take visitors to a designated gate. Your visitors need a form of identification that verifies citizenship (e.g., Korean ID or U.S. Passport), which the security officials will retain in exchange for a temporary pass. U.S. citizens will be allowed to keep their passport, but must provide some other form of identification, such as a driver's license, that will be retained.

It is advisable that visitors contact their insurance company and add a special rider to their policy in the event that they need hospital care. Visitors not eligible for military benefits will be hospitalized in Korean hospitals. In some cases, Medicaid has refused to pay for hospitalization stays.

W

WATER

The water on post is safe for drinking and water fountains are available in places like the PX, 121, CYSS, and the schools and gyms. Water is also available to purchase. Water is available by the bottle or case at the commissary. Another option is home delivery by Diamond Pure Water (foyer of Main Post PX, 724-7567 to schedule delivery, 10am-6pm Tues-Sun, closed Mondays). Free deliveries

are made weekly on and off post. Hot/cold water dispensers are available to purchase or to rent. Hand pumps that fit over the bottles are also available for purchase.

WEATHER

The weather in Seoul is much like the weather in Washington D.C. or Philadelphia with very cold winters and hot, humid summers. Korea does have a monsoon season in mid to late summer. Take flood warnings seriously. The terrain is very hilly and rainwater gathers quickly in certain areas during monsoon season.

The spring is a great time to sightsee, with mild weather and many colorful flowers in bloom (most known for the rows of Cherry Blossom trees). Autumn generally brings lovely foliage colors, clear skies and many opportunities for outdoor activities. Winter brings enough snow for mountain skiing. Parts of Korea, particularly the island of Jeju to the extreme south, are much warmer and experience milder winters. Other sections, such as the area around the DMZ, are much cooler and do not get the locked-in heat of a summer in Seoul.

Z

Zoo

There are many petting zoos and animal attractions in Seoul. Please refer to the travel in Korea section at the back of this book for more details.

SHOPPING IN SEOUL

Here's a newcomer's glance at what is available in Seoul. For in depth information look for local books and magazines or visit the tourist information booths located around the city. The AFSC Shopping Club and other groups on post offer guided local shopping excursions and day trips.

For many, military duty in Korea somehow seems to be an intrusion on the real mission: shopping for yourself and everyone you know in the States. Shopping in Korea is so good, in fact, that it can easily become an addiction. However, before you buy loads to send back, be sure to check the U.S. Postal and Customs regulations. (See Customs in A to Z.) With new automated equipment, the U.S. Customs Office has been cracking down on illegal exports, including military members sending illegal gifts stateside. Stiffer regulations from the Korean government have narrowed the counterfeit label distributors drastically. Still, if you intend to join the legions of shoppers attacking the stores with a vengeance (and almost everyone does at one time or another), keep a few simple guidelines in mind:

- **Always** know the exchange rate between dollars and won before you shop. You may be able to get a better deal using one currency over the other, depending on current economic conditions. Be aware that if you pay by credit card, the currency exchange rate is in the seller's favor.

- If you use a credit card, be cautious and **never** pay a service charge to the merchant for using the card. If the merchant insists on doing this and you absolutely have to have the item, make them write the charge separately on your receipt and report them to the credit card company. This is an illegal practice and most merchants will back off if you stand your ground. Keep your credit card receipts and ensure the charge that shows up on your bill matches the receipt.

- Most U.S. banks now charge service fees for use of their cards overseas. Contact your bank for more information on this practice. It's generally easier (and cheaper) to shop with cash, whether in dollars or won.

- Most Korean stores **do not** have dressing rooms. Be prepared to slip things on over your clothes.

- If you find an item you like but are not prepared to buy at that time, ask the merchant for a business card so you can find the store again. However, keep in mind that the item may not be available later. When you see something you want, buy it!

- Also, if you really like the items and prices at a particular store, ask for extra cards to refer your friends. Many times, merchants will give discounts for your word-of-mouth referrals.

- Shopping bags are not free at grocery and some department stores, but for a few cents, you can buy what you need. It's best to come prepared with some sturdy bags or a rolling cart if you plan to make many purchases.

- New stores open all the time and some old favorites may move or go out of business, so ask your neighbors, colleagues and American and Korean friends to recommend shops that cater to your interests.

- With the exception of some food and flower markets, most stores do not open before 10am. Many markets are closed on a particular weekday, so check before you go. The last week of July and the first week of August is traditionally vacation time for the Koreans, so be prepared for the markets to be closed for a few days or even a week. This also occurs during Chusok and Lunar New Year.

WHAT TO BUY

The following list, though certainly not complete, highlights a variety of products available for purchase in Korea:

ANTIQUES

For those interested in Asian antiques, Korea offers one of the best shopping places in the region. “*Treasures*” are everywhere and although prices continue to climb, many things are still well within the average budget. Unless you are truly a connoisseur of Asian antiques, shop carefully. Before you buy, spend a lot of time looking and comparing items and prices. You will be overwhelmed at first. Visit a variety of shops over a period of several weeks. Ask questions! Reputable dealers will tell you if a piece has been repaired, what wood it is made from, where it originated in Korea and how old it is. When looking at antique pieces, look for bamboo nails, tongue-in-groove joints and cut-out or etched fittings and locks. When you purchase an antique, ask the shop owner for a certificate of authenticity that will describe the piece, list the materials and decorative metals used to make it and detail its usage and measurements. Always negotiate on the price! Keep your receipt, the certificate and a picture of your antique, in case of damage or loss.

Note: *National Treasures may not be removed from the country. In most cases, they would be entirely too expensive to purchase. For more information, call the Office of Cultural Affairs, Seoul City Hall at 02-731-6188.*

There are five major areas for antique shopping in Seoul:

Hannam-dong - Located beyond the fire station in Itaewon and just around the corner from Hannam Village, it is easily accessible and a well-known area. Most shops have reproductions in the front and better antiques in the rear. Generally, the shopkeepers speak excellent English, which can be a big factor in making a purchase. Go often, to look and compare. The shops are constantly replenishing their inventory. Ask if the shop has more items; there is often an upstairs or downstairs area which you would never find on your own.

Insadong or "Mary's Alley" - Located in downtown Seoul between the U.S. Embassy and Pagoda Park, it can easily be reached by taking the subway to Anguk Station (Line 3, Station 328, exit 6) and walking about 50 feet straight ahead, then turn left or....just follow the crowds. Approximately 41% of Korea's antique shops are located in this shopping area. It is not only a great place to shop for antiques, but also has many wonderful art galleries available to visitors. Prices are high, but the quality of goods is generally quite good. There are many good tea shops and restaurants to be found down some of the interesting side streets around this shopping area. On Sunday afternoons, the streets are closed to vehicle traffic and shopkeepers set up their wares in the street, along with various entertainers and artists. It's a great place to spend a Sunday afternoon with the family. A cultural space called 'Ssamziegil' is a mall with handicrafts as its theme. The space was planned by fashion accessory maker, Ssamzie. An area of three stores was forced to close, due to economics in the area. Ssamzie rebuilt this building, which now consists of 6 floors, housing 70 shops that are all connected by a long spiral path that leads to the Sky Park on the top floor, offering views of the streets below. This mall is located on the left, down towards the middle of the long main street.

Janghanpyeong Antique Art Market - It is located between Dapsimni (Line 5, Station 542, exit 4) and Janghanpyeong. (Line 5, Station 543). If you like flea markets interspersed with fine antiques and a few nice shops, this is the destination for you! Many furniture retailers purchase wholesale from this market. Also referred to as Dapsimni, there are three different buildings—Songhwa, Woosung and Samhoe. English is not spoken by many of the shopkeepers here so negotiating can be challenging.

Minsok Gol-dong Pum Market - This quaint market is located near the Hwanghak-dong flea market in Seoul. Take the subway to Sindang (Line 6, Station 635). You will pass a wedding hall before you exit the subway. Once outside, go immediately to the left across the steps, then behind the row of doors for sale. You will be in the market ready to explore for hidden treasures. You can find antiques, character statues (similar to the statue found in Itaewon,

across the street from McDonalds,) kitchenware, old books, trinkets, etc.

Seoul Folk Flea Market (Hwanghak-dong Flea Market) – This market is located along a few blocks, under the Cheonggye elevated road. This is Korea’s oldest flea market dating all the way back to the Korean War. So you can imagine the antiques...books that are more than one hundred years old, ceramics, old LPs and so much more. The famous saying goes, “If you can’t find it at Hwanghak-dong, you won’t be able to find it anywhere else!” The market has close to 1,000 shops selling hard to find antiques along with second hand goods. To some it may look like junk, but savvy shoppers may find antique treasures here. It is recommended that you go with someone who speaks Korean. Take the subway to Sinseoldong (Line 1, exit 6/Line 2, exit 9) and walk straight ahead for 100m. Open daily; 10:30am-7pm and closed the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month.

ART

There are several areas in Seoul to purchase art or browse in the galleries. Off-post between Gate 14 and Gate 16, you can find inexpensive art galleries that will frame your purchases as well as create custom art from photographs. There are also galleries located in the following areas: City Hall (Line 1, Station 132), Gyeongbokgung (Line 3, Station 327) and Insadong–Anguk (Line 3, Station 328, exit 6).

ARTS & CRAFTS

Local markets such as Dongdaemun, Namdaemun, E-mart and the Alpha Store (chain of art/stationary stores) have a broad range of art, craft, stationery and architectural supplies available.

BOOKS

The Main PX on Yongsan Garrison carries a wide variety of books and magazines, as does the Osan Air Base BX. Some local bookstores worth a visit are:

Bandi and Lunis’ - Located inside the COEX mall. Take the subway to Samseong (Line 2, Station 219, exit 6).

Jongno Book Center - Located just across the street from the YMCA Hotel. Take the subway to Jongno 3(sam)-ga (Line 1, Station 130, exit 4).

Kyobo Bookstore - Located in the basement of the Kyobo building just two buildings south of the U.S. Embassy in downtown Seoul. Take the subway to Gwanghwamun (Line 5, Station 533, exit 3). There is a large sign for the bookstore at this exit, which leads you immediately into the store. The foreigner’s section here is excellent and some of the “coffee table” books are truly beautiful, though expensive. There is an entire section devoted to dictionaries for translating

English and Korean. Within the foreigner's section is a very large wall of travel books (including the Lonely Planet and Seeing Eye series) as well as books on teaching English.

Seoul Selection - Located near the U.S. Embassy. Take the subway to Gwanghwamun (Line 5, Station 533, exit 2). East side of Gyeongbokgung Palace, across from the parking lot. www.seoulselection.com; phone: 02-734-9567.

What the Book? - Conveniently located in Itaewon, this bookstore sells new and used English books. They also buy used books. It is located on the same side as the Hamilton Hotel on the main road in Itaewon, nestled on the second floor above the Thai restaurant Wang Thai. www.whatthebook.com.

CARPETS

If you think you are going to want carpets, consider buying them at your local PX or Furniture Store and bring them with you in your express shipment. It is a lot easier to lay carpet down in a fairly empty home than to add carpet once you have unpacked. Good color choices are hard to come by locally, particularly neutral colors. If you have room-sized rugs that are not too heavy, it is a great idea to include them with your shipment. You will be glad you did.

Also, check with departing personnel. Many may have purchased Korean carpets specifically for the Yongsan quarters and are willing to sell at a good price.

The AAFES Furniture Store carries some area rugs, carpeting and padding at a variety of prices and sizes up to 12'x15'; however, be forewarned that they sell out quickly. (They do have a waiting list so join the list and they'll notify you.) Ask at the PX about ordering rugs for delivery to the local store from the Online Catalog. Ornamental rugs are available at the Chosun Gift Shop on South Post. There are generally two shipments of rugs per year and they are available in many sizes; the largest is approximately 9'x12'. These are beautiful, but cost more than machine made rugs. Occasionally, carpet vendors set up displays and sell various sizes of decorative rugs and carpets in the AAFES Four Seasons Store. Several off-post vendors will come in and lay down wall to wall carpeting. The cost varies with carpet choice and vender. The fabric market at Dongdaemun has great carpets on the ground floor level.

CELADON

This uniquely Korean art form has evolved into some of the most beautiful ceramics available anywhere in the Orient. The celadon wares of the Koryo Dynasty, produced in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, surprised even the highly cultured Chinese. Koryo celadon pieces are now praised as rare art forms. While it is extremely doubtful that you will ever purchase an original Koryo

celadon (and you probably would not be able to get it out of the country even if you could afford it), celadon copies abound. Prices range from a few dollars for a small, inexpensive copy to thousands of dollars for an original work by one of the current “living treasures,” a designation given by the government to masters of ancient Korean arts.

Pottery can be purchased at pottery villages, Insadong, the Hwanghakdong Flea Market, festivals or at the Gallery on Yongsan garrison. The Icheon Pottery Village and the Yeosu Pottery Village are the most famous. The AFSC, the USO and various groups on post offer bus trips to the pottery villages.

Eden Pottery - A beautiful shop in Itaewon across the street from McDonald's and up a little way. Look for their sign because it is in a basement and just has the staircase leading down. This shop is a little more expensive than the souvenir shops around it, but the quality of the pieces surpasses others. Phone: 02-793-0828

Koryo Art Ceramics - This little shop is filled to the brim and spills out onto the sidewalk. The salesperson speaks good English and is happy to explain the symbolism behind the items. Located in Itaewon on the right side of the main strip, past the first alley. Look for stairs leading down, the store is tucked back from the sidewalk at the top of the stairs. Phone: 02-798-2577 www.koryoceramics.co.kr

CLOTHING

There are many clothing shops that offer great prices; however, if you are larger than a size 8, you may have trouble finding clothing in Korea. Doota Mall, across from the fabric market in Dongdaemun, has information about stores that carry larger sizes. Ask at the information booth on the ground floor and they will give you a slip of paper with a list of store numbers. Some places to shop for clothing include department stores, outlets, brand shops, Namdaemun and Dongdaemun Markets, Myeongdong, Itaewon and the stands in front of Ehwa Women's University. Please see 'Where to buy' in this section for directions to get to these places.

For pre-made Korean apparel, there are some sizing differences that you should note. Basically, the sizes are: 44=Extra Small, 55=Small, 66=Medium (about a size 8), 77=Large, 88=Extra Large (extremely difficult to find in a small store). Pants are sized by the waist measurement in inches. Shoe sizes can be difficult since some shoes have Korean sizing and some have European. For women's shoes, the largest size sold is 270, but these are hard to find. Most shops only carry up to a man's size 10 and 11. There are no ½ sizes. Shoes are measured in millimeters.

TAILORS AND SEAMSTRESSES

Selecting a good tailor from the hundreds available in Seoul is yet another one of those things where word of mouth is helpful. Most people who have been in Seoul for a few years have a favorite tailor, so when you see a person wearing a custom suit or uniform that you like, ask them who made it. After you select a tailor, make sure you select a fabric that will be compatible with the style of garment you have chosen. Be sure to review all of the details of the garment (type of lapel, pocket flaps, cuffs, etc.) with the tailor so you will be pleased with the final product. Do not accept unsatisfactory workmanship and do not pay for the garment in full until it is completed to your satisfaction.

Many military personnel have found that custom uniforms can be made very reasonably. The tailor shop at the Dragon Hill Lodge is a good place to have uniforms and custom dress shirts made, they carry the authorized fabric, but for Army uniforms only. (The Military Clothing Sales Store (MCSS), located in the Mini-Mall on Main Post, carries fabrics and buttons authorized for Army uniforms ONLY. Air Force, Marine and Navy uniforms have to be ordered from U.S. so make sure you plan ahead!!) If you go off post, you may need to purchase your own fabric. After the tailor has taken all the necessary measurements, have him tell you how much fabric he will need to make the uniform. A man's jacket normally takes about 2½ yards and the pants require about 1½ yards. Check at the MCSS to make sure you have all the necessary trim and measurements for its placement. Word of mouth is a good way of finding out who specializes in custom tailoring. Women's clothing is more difficult to make than men's and is more expensive, so ask to see samples and prices before committing to a garment.

FLOWERS AND PLANTS

Koreans, like Americans, value anything that makes their lives a little more pleasant and attractive. This attitude is clearly reflected in their love of flowers, which can be found in abundance and are very inexpensive. There are literally hundreds, possibly even thousands, of flower vendors in Seoul. Note: These markets close around lunch time so be sure to go early.

Blossoms - For those who prefer to stay on-base, this shop is located in the Dragon Hill near the elevators. Ms. Moon, who works at the shop, will accept special orders and will make arrangements based on pictures you provide. Phone: 738-2222 x6816.

Burt's Self Help - If you live in government quarters, annual flowers and shrubs are sometimes available seasonally here. These are free, but there is usually a limit on the quantities given per unit. Located on South Post between Collier Field House and Gate 13.

Dongdaemun (East Gate Market) - There is a market for landscaping materials, flowers, bushes and trees in the Dongdaemun area. Take the subway to Jongno 5(O)-ga (Line 1, Station 129) or Dongdaemun (Line 4, Station 421, exit 9) and walk straight ahead for about two blocks.

Express Bus Terminal -The flower markets are located on the 3rd floor and in the basements (Line 3, Station 339, exit 1). You can take bus 143, 401 near the Commissary gate. Get off at the second stop after crossing the river. The shopping area is on your right.

Grace Flower Shop - Conveniently located in the Main Post Mini Mall (Four Seasons), the shop carries a variety of fresh flowers and is relatively pricey. Phone: 723-2076.

Hatonae (Flower Area) - This is a great place to shop if your interests lie more with yard and houseplants. Seasonal yard plants are outside and houseplants inside. Some of these plants are rare and can be expensive, so always shop around and negotiate the price before purchasing. To get there take the Chamsu Bridge (lower section of the Banpo Bridge) to the south side of Han River. Drive straight through the traffic light at the intersection of the Express Bus Terminal, Palace Hotel and hospital. Go up the hill on the other side where you will see greenhouses lining the street on both sides.

Namdaemun (South Gate Market) - Take the subway to Hoehyeon Station (Line 4, Station 425, exit 5) at street level take a right turn into the market on the Main Alley. The flower market is on the third floor of a large building on your right, about 300 yards into the market.

The Yangjae Flower Market - (Line 3, Yangjae Station, exit 7; walk south for 10-15 minutes; it is on the right) This is a good place for yard and houseplants, gardening tools and cut flowers. To get there, drive across the Hannam Bridge. Go straight until you reach Yangjae-dong. The flower market is a little bit out of town and is located on the right side of the road.

PICTURE FRAMES

Many people choose to have artwork framed in Korea due to the relatively low cost. There are many places in Seoul that provide framing. The Frame Shop in the Gallery on Main Post has fairly reasonable prices and the owners speak English. They are familiar with the concept of double matting and work hard to accommodate American tastes. The MWR Arts and Craft Centers of every post offer custom matting and framing services for a reasonable fee, or you can do your own framing. For a more extensive selection of frames, there are approximately 30 shops located off-post between Gate 14 and Gate 16. The best

deals are off-post. The language barrier can sometimes prove frustrating or just something fun to write about in your journal.

A nice store to have artwork framed is '0901'. To get to this store, go out of Gate 14 and turn right at the traffic light. The store is near Samgakji Station on your right hand side. Two shops before '0901' is a small shop selling unframed canvas artworks. The owner does the paintings and for a very reasonable fee will turn any treasured photograph you may have into a wonderful canvas oil painting. Note: Plastic frames are widespread so if you are offered an unbelievably low price on the framing check for plastic!

GINSENG

Ginseng is Korea's traditional medicinal herb. This herb, known as the "miraculous medicine" or "Koryo Ginseng," is believed to calm the mind and strengthen the body. There are many ginseng products including the root, tea, canned drinks and even candy. It can be purchased at many markets in town, duty-free shops and during regional ginseng festivals. It is definitely an acquired taste for the majority of Americans, so it is advisable to taste test before you purchase. Ginseng products can be costly. The USO offers trips to pick your own Ginseng root and visit the local Ginseng markets.

HANBOK

The hanbok is the traditional Korean attire of both men and women. Hanboks can be very elaborate depending upon the fabric and handwork involved. They are still worn on official occasions and holidays such as Chuseok, weddings and other special family gatherings. If you are interested in having a hanbok made, there are hanbok tailor shops in Itaewon, Dongdaemun Market in the five-story white building (Line 4, Station 421, exit 9), Namdaemun Market in Building C, 3rd floor (Line 4, Station 425, exit 5) and on Osan Air Base.

JEWELRY

Like most of Asia, Korea seems to abound with jewelry. The beautiful craftsmanship makes these articles very tempting buys. There are several important factors to remember when shopping for jewelry:

- As in the States, deal with a reputable merchant if you plan on purchasing precious stones and metals.
- Know which countries specialize in what type of precious stones in order to get the best price. Korea's special stones are amethyst and topaz. True Korean amethyst has become very expensive, so you will find many shops sell the cheaper Brazilian amethyst. The Korean jade supply was mined out several

years ago; consequently, most of the jade you see comes from other Southeast Asian countries. Merchants can, and do, make high-quality synthetic stones.

- Always comparison shop before you purchase. The PX carries a variety of jewelry from different parts of Asia, check out their selection and prices. They always stand behind the products they sell and you may wish to eliminate any doubt when purchasing a high dollar item like fine jewelry. Payment plans are available or purchases can be made using most major credit cards.

- All Seasons Jewelry, and Joy's Jewelry in Itaewon offer many beautiful pieces and they do custom work. As with all things Korean; however, word of mouth advertising is the best way to go. Some shops specialize, so ask around before committing to any purchase.

- When purchasing expensive jewelry, ask for certificates of authenticity and carefully inspect all merchandise. Certificates of authenticity are required even from the PX and required for insurance purposes.

KIMCH'I POTS

If you are thinking of buying a brown-ware Kimch'i pot, there are many places to buy them. A wide variety of Kimch'i pots are available right outside Gate 21, also known as the Kimch'i Pot Gate. Kimch'i pots make nice decorative crocks. They can also be found at various vendors throughout the city and at the pottery villages.

LEATHER

Another popular item in Korea is leather whether in luggage, jackets, handbags or shoes. There are many good bargains, but a few words of caution apply: If you cannot tell the difference between cow, lamb or pigskin, shop with someone who can! Quality lambskin is the most expensive and you certainly do not want to pay for lamb and end up with treated cow; this also applies for fleece linings. If you are placing an order, NEVER pay for the entire garment in advance. Make the smallest down payment possible since the merchant will be much more interested in seeing that the final product meets your specifications and completed in a timely manner. Do not accept a garment until you are happy with it.

NOTE: *It is not the merchant's fault if you picked a style that is unbecoming to you. Know what looks best on you before placing a customized order, or you could end up forfeiting your deposit. In most cases you will have to purchase the item since large sizes will be difficult for the tailor to sell.*

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Many people have found good bargains in Seoul on various musical instruments. Nag Won Musical Instrument Arcade is located behind Tapgol Park (Pagoda Park) near Insadong. This large market has the widest variety and best selection of musical instruments, from piccolos to pianos. Korean-made guitars appear to be a good buy. Take the subway to the Jonggak Station (Line 1, Station 131, exit 3).

QUILTS AND FABRIC

Korea is a nation filled with fabric, garment manufacturers and innovative entrepreneurs who do not let a scrap of fabric go to waste. The Korean quilting industry was born literally from the remnants of other works. Most Korean quilts are sewn by machine and made of washable fabrics. Some are sewn by hand from ornate silks and satin fabrics, but these are usually not washable and more for decoration than everyday use. You can spend anywhere from a few dollars to several hundred on a Korean quilt. A quilt can be made to order; prices vary widely so shop around for the best prices, quality of fabric and workmanship. Dongdaemun Market is the best place to purchase fabric, sewing notions and quilts. You will be amazed at the sheer volume of fabrics available. Fabric can be bought by the yard or by the bolt along with a huge selection of notions: tassels, thread, zippers, and really anything else you can imagine. Take the Ichon (Gate 13) or Sinyongsan Station (Gate 14) subway to Dongdaemun (Line 4, Station 421, exit 9).

Check on-post for quilting groups or classes if you would like to make your own quilt. One group, The Yongsan Quilt Group, participates in the Quilts of Valor program and makes baby quilts for donation to The Storks Nest (a pre-birth lodging facility for mothers-to-be who live outside of Seoul and have their babies at the Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital). The group offers instruction and provides all quilting supplies (including sewing machines) to anyone wishing to volunteer to help make the donated quilts. A long arm quilting machine is located on the second floor of the Arts and Crafts Center. For more information, contact YongsanQuilters@yahoogroups.com.

One popular fabric shop, Happy Quilt, has top quality cotton and seasonal fabric (B-5215,5216 inside Dongdaemun). Happy Quilt is a regular vendor at the AFSC monthly luncheons. They have a warehouse located in the Osan area.

Some other popular Korean items to shop for include lacquer ware, paper craft called Hanji, calligraphic works and paintings, paper fans, masks, teas and fashion accessories.

WHERE TO BUY

There are so many shopping opportunities in Seoul that it is easy to become overwhelmed. The listing below is by no means complete, but it's a good place to begin your Korean shopping adventures. The locations are broken down into three categories: Markets, Shopping Districts, and Department Stores. A trip to a department store or a shopping district can be great fun, but the markets are where you will find the best deals if you have the time to spend.

MARKETS

Korea is world famous for its shopping markets. Exploring these markets can be the adventure of a lifetime. The following are just some of the market areas frequented by many of the Yongsan community:

Bangsan Market - A great place to shop for baking supplies. Take the subway to Jongno 5(O)-ga, Line 1, exit 7.

Dongdaemun (East Gate Market) - The largest of the shopping markets in Seoul and possibly the most popular with both Korean and foreign shoppers. Dongdaemun is famous for a variety of wares including: fabric, sweaters, lingerie, shoes, sports equipment, clothing, Korean bedding, jackets, leather items, handbags, jewelry, toys and much more. It is located in the eastern sector of the city and is easily reached by taking the subway to Dongdaemun (Line 4, Station 421, exit 8 or 9). It is also possible to drive and park in the FED compound (free to all ID card holders and roughly three blocks away). The market is well marked on almost all Seoul roadmaps.

Express Bus Terminal - To Westerners, the huge Express Bus Terminal just south of the Han River is sometimes called the Banpo. This bus terminal is the hub of all long-distance bus traffic in the Republic of Korea. It is busy on a normal day and jammed tremendously on Korea holidays. It also contains several floors of restaurants and interesting, inexpensive shops. There are fresh flower markets in the basement and third floor. There is also a huge artificial flower market with home goods on the third floor. Christmas and other holiday items are available seasonally. Take the subway to the Express Bus Terminal Station (Line 3 or 7, exit 1). To go by bus: exit gate 6 (Commissary Gate) and take a right; walk to the stop light and cross the street to the bus stop. Take bus 143 and get off at the second stop after you cross the river. For the return journey make sure you are on the opposite side of the street and again take bus 143. Once the bus has crossed the bridge, get off at the first stop (Hangang Middle School) which is close to gate 6.

Dongmyo - An area near Dongdaemun which is a good place to shop for toys, stationery, clothing, socks, etc.

Doota Mall - Located across from Dongdaemun Market and directly across from

the History and Culture Park. Look for another large white building across the street (and stream). Many of the shops carry European size clothing. Ask at the information booth on the ground floor and they will give you a slip of paper with list of store numbers that sell the larger sizes. There is also a very nice food court on the 7th floor.

The Fabric Market - Located outside of Dongdaemun Station (Line 4, Station 421, exit 9). The market is a five-story white brick building, full of fabrics and notions of every imaginable sort. It is overwhelming at first, so plan to spend a few hours. Look for the Happy Quilt fabric store (5th Floor B Bldg, 5215-6) as the owner, Mr. Kang, also sells his fabrics at the monthly AFSC Luncheons. Note: The fabric market is closed on Sunday.

Mango' Building - A good place to buy socks, clothes, etc. Take the subway to Dongmyo Station, (Line 6, Station 636, exit 6). The building is immediately to your right as you come out of the exit. Take the elevator to the 7th floor.

Namdaemun (South Gate Market) - Located just down the hill from the Hilton Hotel and across from Seoul Station. This market is a unique cornucopia of clothing, jewelry, dishes, appliances, folk art, flowers, gift bags, stationery items and foods. The market serves as a major manufacturers' outlet opening very early at 2am and doesn't close until 6pm. One of the best features in Namdaemun is the huge wholesale flower market, but go early since that section closes around 1pm.

Namdaemun is a good place to buy children's clothing, with many buildings selling nothing but children's clothes and shoes.

The Alpha Store is located on Stationery Alley and has a great variety of crafts, art supplies and office needs. The market is easily accessible by taking the subway to Hoehyeon Station (Line 4, Station 425, exit 5). You can also take bus 143, 149 (outside Gates 14 or 16) and bus 401 (outside Gate 3). Parking is available in the underground lot at the Hilton Hotel; fees can be high if you spend more than a couple of hours. If you would like to walk from Yongsan, exit post at Gate 19 (Camp Coiner) and take a left out of the gate. Walk up the hill to the Hilton Hotel and then down to the market. Detailed maps with building numbers and what areas of the market sell certain items are available at information booths located along the markets main arteries.

Noryangjin Fish Market - This is Seoul's largest fish market. It is run by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries and houses over 700 shops selling seafood from 15 fishing ports around Korea. It also includes numerous restaurants that will cook your purchased fish for you, an auction floor and an adjacent agricultural section. It is open from 3am-9pm everyday; however, wholesalers are off on Sundays and holidays. Take the subway to Noryangjin Station (Line 1, exit 2).

Toy Alley - This is a favorite shopping area for toys, games, stationery, craft items, party supplies and more. Birthday gifts and party favors are fun to find here, as well as gift bags and cool school supplies. Take the subway to Dongmyo Station,

(Line 6, Station 636, exit 6). As you exit to the street, walk about 100 feet to the first intersection at which you will turn right and walk down the alley to the vendors and stories.

Yongsan Electronics Market - This market houses enough computers, stereos, cameras and general electronic gadgets to keep an electronic whiz busy for months, maybe even years. Do not just shop in the main building. The entire market consists of more than two dozen buildings and the surrounding streets are packed with vendors selling thousands of electronic gadgets and gizmos. This market is located in Yongsangu, an easy walk out of Gate 14 (turn left at the traffic signal and follow the signs). If you are driving, exit Gate 14, turn left at the light and immediately get in the right lane and make a right turn at the next traffic signal. The lanes are confusing, so pay attention. Go straight ahead taking the underpass in front of you. Turn left at the first traffic signal after the underpass. The market is 300 yards on the left, behind the train station and E-Mart. There is a large parking lot in front of the building. It is helpful to have a Korean speaker accompany you to the Electronics Market as most vendors have limited English.

***Note:** As with any other market, compare prices and bargain before you buy. Also, this is an important place to remember that a brand label is just that, a label. They can be put on or taken off very easily. Check for quality and performance.*

Buyer Beware: Most product information is written in Korean and warranties are not valid in the U.S. If you live on-post, ensure all products you buy are dual voltage.

SHOPPING DISTRICTS

Certain areas of Seoul have developed reputations as special shopping and commercial districts. The most popular among the American military community is Itaewon, mainly because of its convenient location to Yongsan Garrison and the fact that most shop owners speak English. A list of some of the more popular shopping districts is below and a trip to any of them will be sure to provide an afternoon or evening of enjoyment.

ITAEWON

This area is conveniently located outside Gate 5 (the gas station Gate) and across the street. It is a good place to venture off-post for your first shopping adventure. Many of the vendors speak English and it is not quite as overwhelming as some of the larger markets in Seoul. You can find numerous items such as: clothing, shoes, travel bags, luggage, leather and eel skin goods, brass, antiques and reproductions.

The Underground - Be sure not to miss the underground section of shops

called ‘The Underground’ about a block away from McDonald’s, and across the alley from ‘The Bag Man’ purse shop. There are many entrances to ‘The Underground’ and once inside, you easily find your way around. There are hundreds of vendors selling an array of “brand name” clothing, shoes, jackets, underwear and souvenirs. There is a limited amount of children’s clothing, but not at bargain prices compared to the sales available in the U.S. Some stores will not let you try on clothes, but most encourage you to, whether they have a changing area or not! Take the stairs, leading up or down, to see more floors packed with hundreds of vendors and their wares.

Boutique Area - Follow the small street that leads to ‘The Underground.’ Keep walking until you pass a small ‘Tag Store’ on the right hand side. This store will sew your name (in Korean) on luggage and clothing tags while you wait. It’s a nice shop and also sells hats and ready-made luggage tags. Once you pass the tag shop, you will see ‘Monica’s Custom Tailor’ store. Turn right in front of this store. Walk down a narrow, steep alley-way, leading downhill. At the bottom of the hill you will find boutiques lining both sides of the street. They sell a variety of beautiful clothing for both men and women. Note: On Tuesdays, a lot of these stores are closed.

Hamilton Shopping Center - There is a wide variety of stores in this four level shopping center attached to a hotel and often simply referred to as the “Hamilton” or the “Hamilton Hotel.” The lower levels sell watches, jewelry, purses and souvenirs; the top two floors are mostly clothing and purses/luggage. Have a specific item in mind when shopping the lower levels, as the vendors tend to be a bit aggressive as they pressure you to buy. Take the escalator to the top level where there are also bathrooms. There is a reputable rug dealer with a nice selection of Persian rugs. He also offers rug cleaning and repair. Some shops take U.S. dollars, but exchange rates can vary from store to store.

Remix - This store has a great selection of clothing. It is on the right side of the main street towards the middle section of the Itaewon shopping area. It is easy to walk by and miss the store.

Shoe and Boot Shop (no name on store front) - This shop is located immediately before the ‘Remix’ clothes shop. You have to go downstairs to get to the store. It carries a good selection of ladies shoes and boots at reasonable prices.

A-One - This is another store that has a great selection of shoes and boots. It is located on the right side of the main street towards the middle of the shopping area.

The Morning Calm Antique Furniture Store - This store has a huge selection of beautiful Korean antiques and reproductions. The store has very unique pieces of furniture and the owner is willing to make a deal. 02-790-2420

MYEONG-DONG

This is one of the busiest and most fashionable shopping districts in Seoul. It is said that one million people pass through here each day. The narrow streets and alleys contain hundreds of clothing and accessory boutiques, shoe stores, tailors, dressmakers, huge department stores, specialty shops and the Myeong-dong Cathedral. This district stretches for about a mile in any direction from the Myeong-dong Station, so everything is within walking distance. The area is popular with teenagers and has many familiar stores such as Gap, Old Navy and Forever Twenty One. Some of the familiar stores even sell European sized clothing. There are many good restaurants here that represent the best of Eastern and Western establishments. Myeong-Dong claims to sell the biggest ice cream in the world at 16 inches high. There are always lines of people waiting to sample this mile high treat-even on bitterly cold winter days! During the warmer summer evenings, the streets abound with hundreds of shoppers as the vendors stay open at least until midnight. Take the subway to Myeong-dong (Line 4, Station 424, Exit 7 or 8).

APGUJEONG

This trendy, upscale fashion district, surrounded by many luxury apartments, is located south of the Han River in Gangnam-gu. You will find department stores, clothing stores, shoe shops and boutiques. There are also numerous restaurants, cafés, coffee houses, nightclubs, cinemas, theaters and other entertainment spots. Some stores you will recognize, e.g., The Body Shop (one of many around town), and L' Occitane. This area can be reached by taking the subway to either the Apgujeong or Sinsa Stations (Line 3, Stations 336 or 337).

EWHA WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY AND SINCHON

These two areas are very close to one another. Both areas are fast becoming the new fashionable place to shop. The shopping areas fan out from there. This is a quaint place to shop, with the feel of a small college town. Lots of fun little shops, hair salons and small restaurants dot the area. Sinchon is supposed to be the up and coming Myeong-dong. With many universities adjacent to it, Sinchon has been called the "Street of Youth." Where else would they put the first Krispy Kreme Donuts in Seoul? Theaters line the street near Sinchon Station (Line 2, Station 240) and an On the Border TexMex Restaurant is also there. Take the subway to EWha Women's University, (Line 2, and Station 241) and look for the exit that takes you near the actual University.

DEPARTMENT STORES

Korean department stores are not only an excellent and entertaining way to learn what products are available here, but also give you a glimpse of the Korean way of life. While featuring the finest and most expensive items, the department stores are almost a microcosm of Korean society, with most also containing grocery stores and restaurants. The huge Lotte World Department Store on the south side of the Han River also has an amusement park and museum within its confines. Someone is usually available to answer questions in English.

COEX Mall - Everything can be found at this enormous shopping complex. In addition to the endless stores you will find restaurants, food courts, clubs, an aquarium and a movie theater. Be prepared for an adventure and huge crowds! There's a lot to see, so plan to spend the entire day. It is easy to access from Samseong Station (Line 2, Station 219, exit 6). The subway exit leads straight into the Mall. www.coex.co.kr/eng

Galleria Department Store - This department store is located on the south side of the river near the Olympic complex. The store is a large white building with wide steps leading up to the entrance. There is a great supermarket in the basement. The closest subway stop is Apgujeong (Line 3, Station 336, exit 2). Expect a 15-minute walk, or take a taxi. If driving: from Riverside Drive (Highway 88), turn right at the next bridge, go past Hannam Bridge (also called Dongho Bridge) and turn left at the first traffic light. There is another, much closer, branch of the store located at Seoul Station (Line 4, Station 426).

Lotte Department Store and Lotte Mart - There are numerous locations for the Lotte Department Store and Lotte Mart in and around the Seoul area. They are good places to learn about Korean products and different foods. The stores have grocery and clothing departments and can be compared in quality to Stateside Target Stores. The closest store to USAG-Yongsan is beside the Seoul Station (Line 4, Station 426) and there is another, much larger, store located in Jamsil (Line 2 or 8, Station 216, Exit 3). www.lotteshopping.com/english

Central City/Shinsegae - Located next to the Express Bus Terminal, Shinsegae Department Store is huge, with hundreds of shops on each floor. There are many places to shop in Central City, so you'll want to allow for a full day shopping excursion. Visit the large Korean food court, located on the basement floor. It is similar to the food courts in American Malls and offers a great variety of foods to tempt anyone's palate. Take the subway to the Express Bus Terminal. (Line 3 or 7, Station 339, exit 5 or 6) or you can take the bus. www.shinsegae.com/english

Hyundai Department Store - This is another beautiful department store with lots to offer and is located in Apgujeong (Line 3, Station 336).

Costco - Just like in the States, you can even find Kirkland's brand items in this Korean superstore. There is an annual membership fee and it's a bit of a drive, but if you like to shop in bulk and get COSTCO deals, this is the place for you. The items in the store are geared toward the Korean shopper, so you will find different merchandise than is available Stateside. You can use your unexpired Stateside Costco card here, so be sure to take it with you. Visit the COSTCO Korea website at: www.costco.co.kr (click on English, then 'Locations' for maps and written directions). The Yangjae location is right off Highway 1, across from the flower market. There is a large parking garage on the premises. The COSTCO sign is the same as the stateside store signs and is visible from the highway.

E-Mart - This chain store has many locations throughout Seoul. The closest location to Yongsan is out of Gate 14, in the basement of the I-Park Mall Building. There is a parking garage, or you can walk from Gate 14 to the subway entrance. Use the subway to get on the other side of the busy street (Exit 5). You can't miss the building with a huge I-Park sign; also look for the distinctive yellow E-Mart signs. E-Mart is in the same building as Yongsan Station (Line 1, Station 135). This department store has everything from pet grooming items to groceries, and is similar in quality to Stateside Wal-Mart stores. They even have a kimbap rolling machine and you can watch while the deli attendant rolls perfect kimbap. You can purchase many ready to eat Korean food items, including already marinated bulgogi and kalbi meat, as well as frozen items like yaki mandu. This is an excellent place to buy fresh fruit, vegetables and bread.

I-Park Mall - A huge one-stop shopping/entertainment complex, this mall houses a great Multiplex containing 11 movie screens, a putt-putt golf course, a skateboard and rollerblade ramp area. There is an open air stage within the courtyard of the complex, where bands and other entertainers perform during the summer months. There are two floors of nothing but restaurants -so you'll never go hungry. The Living Digital store carries an assortment of electronics, furniture and a Korean bookstore. There is also a fashion mall, with shoes, clothes and accessories, nail and hair salons and hobby shops. The opposite end of the mall contains I-Park Department Store. In the basement of the I-Park Department Store is E-Mart. This mall is within easy walking distance to Yongsan Garrison. www.iparkmall.co.kr (click English)

Toys-R-Us - Although not a department store, many people enjoy taking their children to this familiar store. There are several around Seoul and South Korea; however, the most popular is the one near Jamsil Station that is located on the upper level of the Lotte Adventure World Complex. From USAG-Yongsan take Subway Line 4 (light Blue) from either Gate 13 or 14 to Sadang Station. At Sadang Station, transfer to Line 2 (Green). Follow the signs for Line 2, be sure

to go up the stairs at the very end of the station and make a sharp “U” turn to the right, this leads to the platform for line 2. Take the Line 2 train to Jamsil Station, and follow the signs to Exit 3-Lotte Adventure World. Continue walking underground past the information booth. You will see signs leading to the Toys-R-Us Store which is located on the upper levels of the complex.

INTERNET SHOPPING

Many people who have never bought a single item on the internet find themselves die-hard internet shoppers after moving to Korea, as Western goods are more expensive out on the economy due to import taxes. Many Internet sites ship to APO addresses. Be sure to check what shipping method a company intends on using to ship the goods to you. The quickest, easiest and most convenient way for APO/FPO shipments is USPS Priority Mail. This usually takes 1-2 weeks. Some companies use “Smart Mail” allowing them to use UPS as their carrier. UPS takes the package from the company and delivers it to the military postal facility. The package is then shipped via parcel post with USPS to the APO. This often means that the package takes 6-8 weeks to arrive. For those items that cannot be shipped to an APO/FPO address, there are companies who specialize in forwarding packages to APO/FPO address. They provide you with a Stateside shipping address and then charge shipping and handling to forward it on to your APO address. www.apobox.com, www.shipitapo.com

ON-POST

Furniture Store - This shop is located on South Post next to the Chosun Gift Shop. It carries a limited variety of U.S. furniture for living rooms, dining rooms and bedrooms. Appliances, lamps and bound carpeting can also be purchased at the store. The carpet stock is constantly in demand and a good rule of thumb is if you want it, buy it because it will be gone tomorrow, if not sooner. They carry 6x9's, 9x12's and 12x15's in two different grades of carpeting. They often have carpet in the back out of sight, so ask for help if you don't see anything you want. You can find baby gear (e.g., cribs, strollers, high chairs, baby carriers, gates, bathtubs, activity centers, etc.) here. Be careful with any special orders because anticipated delivery dates can be anywhere from one to eight months. Phone: 738-5051/5052

The Gallery (AAFES Concessionaires) - Located on Main Post across the street from the P/X and next to the library, this is a great place to get items from local vendors. Items sold include art, blankets, lacquer-ware, clothing, embroidery, shoe shop/shoe repair, furniture, jewelry, pottery, leather goods and clothing. There is also a dry-cleaner and optical shop here. You can ship

packages from the Gallery FedEx desk to arrive in the States within 2 days; however, this service is pricey. There is even a 'Pack and Wrap' located here to help you get your items ready to mail. The Main Post Office is conveniently located right next door. Phone: 723-7635.

Post Exchange (PX) - The largest PX facility is located at Yongsan on Main Post, surrounded by a series of smaller stores run by AAFES and AAFES concessionaires. The main PX sells electronics equipment (stereos, televisions, cameras, and computers), clothing, health and beauty aids and household items. Phone: 724-4365 (Main Post); 723-4461/4462 (Hannam Village); www.aafes.com

Mini Mall (also known as The Four Seasons) - Located on Main Post across the parking lot from the main PX and contains these AAFES stores:

Alterations/Tailors - 723-2080

Barber Shop - 723-7858

Four Seasons/Toyland - Stocks toys, pet supplies, camping and outdoor cooking supplies, sports and exercise equipment, hardware, lawn and garden equipment. 723-2072/2073

Flower Shop – Carries a variety of both fresh and artificial flowers and plants for all occasions. 723-2076

Military Clothing - 723-2079

Shoppette/Class VI - 723-2069

Stylique Main Beauty Shop - 723-2066

SPECIAL INTEREST SHOPPING

MATERNITY CLOTHING

Ordering through US Websites is probably the easiest and cheapest way to get maternity clothes; however, you can find maternity clothes and bras locally.

Yongsan PX and Osan BX - A selection of maternity wear can be found at the Yongsan PX and the Osan Air Base BX; however, they tend to sell out quickly.

Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop - They carry gently used maternity, but their stock is unreliable and dependent on what people consign or donate.

Doota - It is very close to the Dongdaemun subway station exit and the maternity clothes are on the 6th floor with the baby clothes. There are individual vendors so be sure to go around the floor to compare prices.

Shinsegae Department Store - There are several Shinsegaes in Seoul, but the closest are the ones at Central City Mall (next to the Express Bus Terminal), Myeong-dong, and Namdaemun.

Sarah Mesa Department Store - Located in Namdaemun Subway (line 4, Hoehyeon Station, exit 7), the maternity clothes can be found on the 1st and 2nd floor.

Baby Malls - Located in Namdaemun (right around the corner from Mesa), there are some cheap women's shops on the second floors.

Migliore - Located in Myeong-dong (Myeongdong station exit 6), there are quite a few maternity shops in the basement.

Lotte Department Store - There are several Lottes, but the closest is in Myeong-dong. The Prenatal (what they call Maternity) section is on the 4th floor and has a good selection of work pants and jeans.

OPTICAL

You can make an appointment to have your eyes examined by calling the Optometry Clinic on Main Post at 725-3601/5432; however, no contact lens fittings are done so bring a valid contact lens prescription and a 6 - 12 month supply of lenses with you. With a valid contact lens prescription, you can reorder contacts at the Optical Shop, on the Korean economy or over the internet. Frames, lenses or complete pairs of eyeglasses can be purchased at a reasonable price from the Optical Shop in the Gallery on Main Post, at the Dragon Hill Lodge or any off post optical shop. There are hundreds of eye glass shops in the markets and department stores about town. Word of mouth for recommended places works best. The Korean market offers very affordable frame and lens options.

PRODUCE

Fresh fruit and vegetables are available from many sources on and off post. Korean fruits such as apples, pears, persimmons, strawberries, watermelon and imported fruits like mangos, oranges and pineapples are all available. If you regularly do business with a particular vendor, you may get better prices and quality. Be aware that Korea allows the use of pesticides, which are banned in the United States. Always thoroughly wash or peel any fruit or vegetables you buy on the economy. The Commissary stocks a large variety from overseas and Korea. There are huge markets, Korean stores and street vendors that carry fruits and vegetables. Namdaemun Market is one of the largest wholesale fruits and vegetables markets; Bondong Sangga at Namdaemun (Subway Line 4, Hoehyeon Station 425, Exit 5 at Namdaemun Market) sells all kinds of fresh fruits at very low prices.

REPAIRS

For getting things repaired, word of mouth is always the best way. There

are new shops appearing all the time. Check a shop's current reputation before leaving anything for repair.

On-Post

Bicycles - Four Seasons on Main Post, 723-2072/2073.

Computers - The Gallery on Main Post, 723-4030; One Stop Business Center, Bldg S8105, 02-792-6695.

Shoes - The Gallery on Main Post, 723-5149.

Watch/Jewelry and Camera - The Gallery on Main Post, 02-749-9924.

Off-Post

Charley's Auto Repair, 793-7919

Yang's Garage Company, 322-6939.

Kim's Garage, 795-3712.

Mr. Han's Garage, 797-0909 (outside Gate 52). For those who do not care to drive off post, Mr. Han's Garage will pick up and return your car for you.

Do All Interior Co, 797-3213/797-1237. They repair furniture, upholstery, glass, carpet cleaning, draperies and many other odd jobs

RESTAURANT

RESTAURANTS ON POST

AAFES Food Courts on Yongsan Garrison

There are food courts located on South Post by the Furniture Store, Main Post at the PX (Townhouse) and Camp Coiner. Each food court has a variety of restaurants, as listed below:

- **American Eatery** - Camp Coiner, Townhouse
- **Anthony's Pizza** - Camp Coiner, Townhouse, and South Post. For on-post deliveries, call 738-3086/3087
- **Baskin-Robbins** - Townhouse and South Post
- **Burger King** - Townhouse; the main restaurant is on South Post, close to the Dragon Hill and contains a play place.
- **Charley's Steakery** - South Post
- **Starbucks Coffee** - Townhouse
- **Manchu Wok** - Townhouse
- **Popeye's** - Townhouse; the main restaurant is on South Post, close to the Dragon Hill. On-post delivery is available by calling 738-3663/6228
- **Subway** - Townhouse
- **Taco Bell** - Townhouse

Dragon Hill Lodge

The Dragon Hill Lodge has a variety of food choices from fast food to formal dining. Call 738-2222 for more information and restaurant reservations.

- **Green Street** - Casual dining for breakfast, lunch, and dinner with a buffet and menu choices all day. Located in the main lobby.
- **The Oasis** - Tex-Mex grill and bar with a Korean twist! Casual dining for lunch and dinner with daily buffet and specials. Located downstairs next to the deli/bakery.
- **Sables** - It is an upscale restaurant for a more formal evening dining experience with a great dessert buffet. Located in the main lobby. Reservations recommended. Closed Mondays.
- **Pizza Hut and Subway** - Located downstairs. Call 738-7494 for delivery on post only.
- **Dragon Hill Deli and Bakery** - Offers a delightful array of baked goods, hot

meals, and sandwiches for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Located downstairs.

- **Sun Dae's** - They have Mr.G's ice cream! It is wonderful and made fresh daily. Sun Dae's also offers your favorite cappuccino, pastries, candy, and more. It is located next to Clippers Hair Salon on the Lobby Floor.

- **Whispers Lounge**- Offers daily specials and is located beside the Green Street.

- **Bentley's Pub** - Located across from the Shoppette.

Hartell House - Located across the street from the Dragon Hill Lodge, this location offers a more formal dining atmosphere for both lunch and dinner. Everyone is welcome; memberships available. Member discounts apply for dining and other special events. Call 738-3872 for more information or to make reservations.

Harvey's Lounge - Located across the parking lot from the Dragon Hill Lodge. This lounge is a fun place serving pub food and drinks. It also has pool table, darts, and casino options. Closed Sundays. Call 738-5365.

KATUSA Snack Bars

There are 3 on post: near Collier Field House on South Post (Bldg 5211), Main Post (Bldg 2667) and in Camp Coiner (Bldg 1099). These snack bars are like a Korean cafeteria. KATUSA soldiers can eat here at a reduced rate, hence the name, but all are welcome. These are great places to eat lunch or dinner on-post and try new Korean dishes! Payment is made in won here. Very affordable and good! Their japchae (glass noodles), chicken fried rice, and steamed or fried mandu (dumplings) are favorites!

R&R BAR & GRILLE

This facility is located on Main Post behind The Moyer Community Activities Center and next to Yongsan Lanes. You can see the pyramid-shaped roof from the overpass bridge. This facility includes a bar, dining facility, special events center, and gaming. They cater events and have outdoor BBQs. They host special events and 'Chef's Night Around the World', which has become extremely popular. Find out about upcoming events in the Community Connection Magazine.

- **R&R Restaurant** - Offers lunch and dinner, the menu is similar to Applebee's and has the best burgers in town.

- **R&R Lounge** - This lounge has weekly specials as well as entertainment depending on their schedule. Check the Community Connection Magazine for monthly events or call 723-5678.

Moyer Community Activities Center

• **Smoothie King** - has just moved into the Moyer building and open for business. Smoothie King offers fresh blended smoothies, sport beverages, energy bars, healthy snacks and more.

Navy Club

The Navy Club is located on Main Post up the hill to the left of Memorial Chapel. This is a popular restaurant with a truly unique atmosphere and is open to everyone. They offer an extensive dining menu for lunch and dinner, as well as Mongolian BBQ every Thursday evening and breakfast on the weekends. Other activities include karaoke rental, free Wi-Fi, billiards, darts, a cigar lounge and a game room. They also cater for special events. Navy Club Express (725-6108/6114) delivers on post. Closed on Mondays. For more information, call 725-7680.

RESTAURANTS OFF POST

Virtually any type of food is available in Seoul. Prices vary according to the type of cuisine ordered. There is an abundance of good restaurants as well as thousands of little carryout, or “sidewalk” tents, where you can have a quick and inexpensive meal. If you have adventurous taste buds, you will love experimenting with the foods in Seoul. If not, stick to the more “moderate” facilities, which cater to the tourists’ palate. To be on the safe side, ask for bottled water when dining out or order soda or beer in cans or bottles. Do not order alcoholic beverages unless you know how much they cost, as beer and liquor can be extremely expensive. Most restaurants have menus displayed outside that show pictures and prices of food. If a menu is not visible and you are concerned about prices, feel free to ask the hostess/host to see a menu before you are seated.

As with any nice restaurant around the world, many of the fine restaurants in Seoul have a dress code. If you are planning an evening out, either check with someone who has been there before or call the restaurant to find out what is expected. Remember, you are not in an English speaking country, and if you cannot speak Korean, communication can be difficult, especially over the phone. Your best bet when going out to eat is to wear nice, casual attire that is comfortable. Wear shoes that are both comfortable for walking and easy to remove when you arrive.

Please enjoy the next few pages of restaurants. For your convenience, most

of them are of Western or European style. As you become comfortable in your new surroundings, do check out some of the local Korean cuisine. The Seoul Magazine consistently features new restaurants, so pick one up next time you are at the USO or visit the tourist booth in Itaewon.

WESTERN

19th St. Neal's Yard - Neal's offers wonderful coffee, drinks and fabulous desserts. The portions are generous and the presentation is beautiful. You can enter Neal's Yard from the front or the side. In both cases you will need to go up a flight of stairs. Location: about a five minute walk into Itaewon, on the left hand side, 2nd floor. Phone: 02-794-7278.

Bennigan's - American style foods with some Mexican and Italian dishes. There are many locations in and around the Seoul area. For location and menu information visit their website at www.bennigans.co.kr. However, this is not an English homepage. The closest one is in Seoul station (Line 1 or 4, Station 133/426, exit 1).

Bistro Corner Barbecue - American style barbecue serving ribs, pulled pork, coleslaw, onion rings, burgers and more. Location: Itaewon Hill, across from the McDonald's. Phone: 02-792-9282

Buenos Aires - specializing in steaks and chops, mouthwatering cuts. Free Tango show downstairs every hour. Just over the bridge in Sinsa. Free parking, and accessible taxi, bus, or subway. Their website is in English. <http://www.buenosaires.co.kr/lang2/contact/contact.asp>

Butterfinger Pancakes - Are you craving a trip to IHOP or Denny's? BP has a great menu filled with pancakes, sausage, eggs and more. A bit pricey, but they offer large portions and good service. 88-9 Cheongdam-dong, Gangnam-gu (Cheongdam). Valet parking is available. Phone: 02-3448-1070. Take metro line 7 to Gangnam District Office Station, exit #4. Note: The station is about .6 miles from the restaurant. They also have 2 other locations.

California Pizza Kitchen - Offers pizzas with non-traditional toppings as well as pastas, salads, sandwiches, appetizers, and desserts. There are four locations in Seoul; however, the closest is in Myeong-dong across from Lotte Department Store. www.cpk.com/locations

Copa Cabana - This Brazilian churrascaria offers all-you-can-eat meat and a small sides buffet for 29,000 won. The restaurant is small, so reservations are recommended. Location: Itaewon, up the alley just before the Hamilton and turn left. Look for it on the second floor on the left side. Phone: 02-796-1660

Johnny Rockets - American burgers, hand-dipped shakes, fries and more. Bottom floor of Shinsegae Department Store by the Express Bus Terminal. Go

out the Commissary gate and turn right. Cross the street and look for the bus stop. Take the 401 or 143 bus 2 stops and you will see Shinsegae on the right. You can use your T Money card for the bus or 1,000 won. Hold on! It's a rough ride!!

Mercado Brazilian Steak House - This Brazilian churrascaria in Apgujeong is one of the best and most affordable in Seoul. For only 25,000 won/person, you get all-you-can-eat meat (flank steak, bacon-wrapped filet bites, sirloin, rump steak, veal, chicken and chicken hearts) and sides (garlic rice, coleslaw-like salad, potato salad, sweet pickles and pico de gallo). Beverages are extra. Location: Take Line 7 to Gangnam District Office Station, exit 3; turn around and walk towards the main intersection and turn left; walk down 2 blocks or so and turn left at The Coffee Bean; walk straight and turn right at J's Wine and Paris Baguette (Tom N Tom's is also on that street). Mercado is on the second floor (look for the green sign). Phone: 02-515-3288/3289. www.mercado.co.kr

Outback Steakhouse - Outback offers high-quality food and service, generous portions at moderate prices and a casual atmosphere suggestive of the Australian Outback. Although beef and steak items make up a large portion of the menu, the steak house also offers a variety of chicken, ribs, seafood and pasta dishes. The closest one is about a 5 minute walk into Itaewon, right hand side, 2nd floor. There are many locations throughout Seoul: Namdaemun, Express Bus Terminal and close to Gate 16 (PX Gate) toward Seoul Station. Phone: 02-749-5101. www.outback.com/locations/int_korea.aspx

Pizza School – Turn left out of the Camp Coiner gate, then it's on the left just after going straight through the intersection. Good pizza, whether you stick with cheese and pepperoni or stretch a bit and try the sweet potato or roast meat options to top your pizza. There are many more to choose from! Take-out or eat-in and pretty cheap. 824-2222

Pizza Peel – Brick oven pizza with western pizza options. Located in Itaewon on the main road from the Gas Station walk out Gate 3. Turn right the first alley by the Rotiboy Bakery. 02-795-3283 or find their Facebook page: The Pizza Peel Seoul.

Suji's - A reasonably priced restaurant, serving great American breakfasts, Spanish omelets, fish and chips, etc. Free valet parking is available. It is located in Itaewon, across the street from Gate 5 (gas station gate), on the second floor on the right hand side of the street. Phone: 02-797-3698. www.sujis.net

TGI Fridays - This is a favorite dining establishment of millions of Americans, especially on Fridays! There are numerous franchises all over the city of Seoul. Check the website for locations. The closest is in IPARK Mall. www.tgif.co.kr

The Flying Pan - A sandwich and salad shop that also has delicious waffles,

pancakes, and homemade desserts. They are famous for their weekend brunch menu. It's a little pricey, but the food is good. Location: Itaewon, turn left up the alley right after the Hamilton Hotel. It is on the right side of the street down a short set of stairs. Phone: 02-793-5285

Tony Roma's - American-style barbecue ribs and more. The closest location is next to the Seoul Art Center; drive out of Gate 6 (commissary gate), cross the Banpo Bridge and make a U-turn immediately before the Seoul Art Center. Valet parking is available. Other locations in Seoul: Myeong-dong, Gwanghwamun, and Yeouido. Phone: 02-587-4501. www.tonyromas.co.kr, English available.

Toque Diner - American menu and also offers traditional meals for traditional Western holidays. Open for lunch, brunch and dinner. Location: On the road towards Hannam Dong, across from the Leeum Art Museum, just before Yongsan International School. (Line 6, Station 631, exit 3). Parking is available at the Hangeongjin Subway Station Public Parking Lot. Phone: 02-794-3834.

Wolfhound - Great Western food, chicken or beef burgers, fries, fish and chips, etc. The food is inexpensive but drinks can be pricey. It may take a while to catch the eye of a server, but once you have ordered, the wait won't be long and the food is really good. It tends to get crowded in the evenings and can also get smoky, as it is a bit like a 'pub' environment. Location: Itaewon, follow the main road to the intersection where the Hamilton Hotel and Cold Stone Creamery are located. Instead of crossing the road to Cold Stone follow it around to the right and walk a few feet. Turn right at the next street, past the small grocery store and go down the hill. It is on the second floor on the right hand side. Phone: 02-749-7971.

KOREAN

Don Valley - A great Korean BBQ restaurant, but a little pricey compared to other BBQ places. If you don't speak Korean there are pictures on the menu to help. The food is good and served in decent portions. This is a "beef on a leaf" type of place, where the meat is cooked in front of you and you load up whatever you want on top of a lettuce leaf. Location: Itaewon; across from the Hamilton Hotel, below the Coffee Bean. Phone: 02-796-2384

Foody Goody Korean BBQ Cuisine - A moderately priced and popular Korean Beef and Leaf with good cuts of pork and beef. Both low and western style tables and a menu with English translation. Located just outside the Camp Coiner Gate 19. They have free valet parking on the ground level with the restaurant in the upper 3 levels. It is easy to park in Camp Coiner, walk out the gate, turn left and walk to the lighted intersection. Cross the street at a diagonal so you get to the opposite side of the street. Foody Goody is on the east side of

the street in the middle of the block. This restaurant is an AFSC friend!

Gingane - is a little eatery which has an extensive Asian menu... all for under 6,000 won. The place is clean and the staff friendly. The food was great! They even have forks for the Americans!!!! Out Gate 13 (Visitor's Center gate) turn right. Take first right as if turning into Park Tower parking garages... it will be on your right, before you reach the end of the road. They have a great picture menu - and things even for young kids... the place is ALWAYS packed!

Korea House - The Korea House offers a "royal buffet" with performances that include the Korean court dance, mask dance, fan dance, Buddhist monk dance, and Korean classical music. Private dining rooms are available with reservations. You can make reservations for performances only, which are wonderful. Location: Chungmuro Station (Line 4, Station 423, exit 3); look for a big blue sign on the wall by the gas station. Phone: 02-2266-9101. www.koreahouse.or.kr

Maple Tree House - A Korean pork/beef BBQ, moderately priced, restaurant in Itaewon's Restaurant alley behind the Hamilton Hotel. Phone: 02-790-7977. There is another location near Gyeongbokgung Palace in Samcheong-dong. Phone: 02-730-7461.

THAI

Buddha's Belly - A beautiful Thai restaurant in Itaewon offering food that is delicious and reasonably priced. BB has all the essential Thai dishes, some of which can be very spicy. Takeout is available. Location: Itaewon; in the alley behind the Hamilton Hotel, on a corner next to Scrooges Bar. BB is upstairs on second floor. Phone: 02-796-9330

My Thai - Great Thai food. It is spicy though, yes....even when they say "no spice." Location: Itaewon; past the Hamilton and up the alley beside the Hard Rock Café. It is located on the right side of the street beside the restaurant Flying Pan Blue and down a short flight of stairs. Phone: 02-794-8090

Pattaya Thai - This restaurant offers a wide selection of Thai dishes; the lunch sets are a great value and include delicious desserts. They also offer simple rice and noodle dishes that children may enjoy. Location: Left side of the Itaewon strip, go up the alley next to the store 'Amigos,' across from Outback Steakhouse. PT will be in front of you, just at the beginning of the large alley behind the Hamilton. Phone: 02-77793-4888

Thai Orchid - This restaurant is one of the best for Thai food here in Seoul. Location: Itaewon; at the far end of the shopping district. It's on the 3F in the building on the right side, across from Hana Bank. Take the elevator up to third floor and it is immediately on your right. Phone: 02-792-8836/8837.

Wang Thai - Itaewon street opposite Starbucks on the second floor. They have excellent Thai food and great service with wonderful Thai décor. Give their pumpkin and custard dessert a try! Wang Thai is a friend of AFSC.

INDIAN AND PAKISTANI

Agra - A traditional Indian restaurant where you can enjoy main dishes that are baked in a tandoori oven and various curries. Location: Itaewon; between Yongsan garrison and the Hamilton Hotel (on the same side of the street as the Hamilton) and under Burger King. Phone: 070-8230-4320. www.agra.kr

Foreign Restaurant - Delicious Indian and Arabic foods with a very reasonably priced set lunch menu at W9,000. Location: Itaewon; walk past the Hamilton Hotel and turn right at the Fire Station. The restaurant is about 2 blocks down, on the left side of the street. Phone: 02-794-9292

Moghul - This Pakistani restaurant specializes in curries and fantastic breads. They offer a nice buffet. Location: Itaewon; up the alley to the left of the Hamilton Hotel. Phone: 02-796-5501.

Taj Palace - This is a popular Indian restaurant offering a wide selection of Indian delicacies. They have a buffet menu on weekends. Location: Itaewon; past the Hamilton Hotel to the next intersection, (fire station on the corner) turn right and look up, across from the King's Club. Phone: 02-790-5786

Usmania - This is an authentic Pakistani restaurant. The weekend buffet is an excellent way to sample a variety of delicacies. Location: Itaewon; up the alley to the left of the Hamilton Hotel, the restaurant is on the left. Phone: 02-798-7155. usmania.com.ne.kr

CHINESE

Chai Wok - This chain restaurant has good food and quick, friendly service. Location: I-Park Mall – East street section. Go in the main doors of the mall (the escalators will be directly in front of you) and ride the escalator to the fourth floor. Walk around the escalators until you're facing the Sweet Shop. The restaurant is down on the left.

Chinese Fine Dining Chung - This Korean-style Chinese restaurant is very popular even though it's kind of pricey (W28,000 and up). It has an outside seating area that is very popular so call for a reservation. Open: Mon-Sun 11:30-3:00; 5:30-10:00. Location: Center of SamChunt Road about 10 minutes walk from the U.S. Embassy, near Kyungbok Palace. Phone: 02-720-3396. www.chinesechung.com

Geumhong - This Korean-Chinese style restaurant offers authentic Chinese vegetable and noodle dishes, dumplings, soups and Dim Sum all with a hint of

Korean spice. This is a small busy restaurant so reservations are recommended. Location: Outside Gate 13 (visitors' center gate) to the right across the railroad tracks. Turn left at the next light, then right at the next street. The restaurant is on your right. Valet parking is available. Phone: 02-794-7378.

Ho-Lee Chow - American style Chinese food, delicious but can be pricey. Location: Itaewon; in the Hamilton Hotel on the second floor. You can also enter the restaurant from the alley behind the Hamilton Hotel. Phone: 02-793-0802. www.holeechow.co.kr

Johnny Dumpling - An intimate dumpling specialty house in Itaewon with a limited but delicious and inexpensive menu. Location: Itaewon; off the main strip, take a right at the street in front of Cold Stone; take another right in the alley after the building where Gecko's is and it will be tucked away on the left. Phone: 02-790-8830

ITALIAN

Casantonio - This is a restaurant serving authentic Italian cuisine, offering choices of meat or fish. Location: Itaewon; in the alley across from the fire station, on your right hand side. Phone: 02-794-8803. www.casantonio.co.kr

La Cucina - While specializing in Italian dishes, the menu here is continentally diverse and prepared with skill. The atmosphere is marvelous. Coat and tie recommended. Can be expensive, but worth it. Location: Itaewon, directly across from the Hyatt Hotel, in the basement of an art gallery. Phone: 02-794-6005

La Tavola - As advertised: wood oven pizza, wine, music, and more. This is a fun place to go for lunch or dinner. It is nice to sit by the windows overlooking Itaewon. Delicious homemade pizza and even has a rotating art gallery. Location: Itaewon; past the Hamilton Hotel and on your left. Look up for their sign; it is on the second floor of a three story building. Phone: 02-793-6144

Mad for Garlic - Italian Wine Bistro serving delicious pasta dishes with subtle garlic flavorings. The food is fantastic and moderately priced. There are locations all over Seoul; check their website for locations near you. Phone: 02-546-8117. www.madforgarlic.com

Sortino's Cucina Italiana Pizzeria & Bar - This is a cozy little Italian eatery offering many spaghetti dishes and specialty pizza. Location: Itaewon; towards the end of the main shopping strip, on the right hand side. Phone: 02-797-0488/0489. www.sortinos-seoul.com

Trevia - The chiabotta bread and fraccocia and their caprese salad was highly recommended. "I had a bread and salami set and it had the best salami and mortadella. I cannot recommend it enough. I will never eat pizza

anywhere else in Korea again.” Walk out gate 21, cross under the street and go up the hill toward Itaewon Road.

EUROPEAN STYLE

Bärln (Deutsches Wirtshaus) - Hungry for some true authentic German cuisine, this is the place to be. The atmosphere is crisp & clean, in a rustic sort of way. Take metro Line #3 to Anguk Station, exit #6. Once above ground, walk straight ahead to the Somerset Building, past the stop lights and to the left down an alleyway. The restaurant is located on the bottom floor. The menu is pricey but the portions are European –large. Medallions of Pork Tenderloin with Champignon Cream Sauce, Spätzle & salate (39,000W) was worth every won! http://www.baerln.co.kr/html_e/main.html

Casa J.J - Wine and dine, this restaurant serves incredible meat and fish dishes that will delight. A warm intimate atmosphere, the food is expensive, but worth it. A great little wine shop called The Jell Wine Gallery Cafe, is across the street and is also a do-not-miss! Location: On the hill towards the Grand Hyatt Hotel on Namsan, on the left side of street; you can't miss the ivy covered building. They do have parking. Phone: 02-797-4343. www.casajj.co.kr

Chalet Swiss - European style dishes of steak, chicken, and burgers. Location: Across from the Itaewon Fire Station, near the Hyatt Hotel. A busy restaurant with a moderately priced menu, reservations are recommended. Phone: 02-797-9664, 02-796-6379

Chef Meili - Austrian Deli and Café Restaurant with great Austrian food and very friendly service. Food is cooked to order, so be prepared to wait, but it is certainly worth it! The restaurant is upstairs and the deli downstairs. Location: Itaewon; follow the main road to the intersection where the Hamilton Hotel and Cold Stone Creamery are located. Instead of crossing the road to Cold Stone follow it around to the right and walk a few feet. The restaurant is at the corner of the first alley on your right side. Phone: 02-794-7024

El Comedor - Great food from Paraguay. A must to try here are the Empanadas (dough pocket filled with beef, chicken, corn and cheese, or ham and cheese). They also serve chipas (soft doughy bread on the inside and crusty on the outside), Sopa Paraguaya (kind of like corn bread or hush puppies). It is a small take-out place, but they have a few tables and Latin music in the background. Closed Mondays. Location: Itaewon; follow the main road to the intersection where the Hamilton Hotel and Cold Stone Creamery are located. Instead of crossing the road to Cold Stone follow it around to the right and walk a few feet. Turn right at the next street; go past the small grocery store and down the hill. El Comedor is on the left hand side on the second floor. Phone: 02-749-2827

La Cigale Montmartre - You can enjoy nightly specials and delicious mussels at this sidewalk café. It has a moderately priced menu with meat and fish. Location: Itaewon; just past the Hamilton Hotel, you can't miss the bistro tables. Phone: 02-796-1244

Le Saint-Ex - French wine bar and bistro. The chef prepares daily specials that change two to three times a week. Specials include meat or seafood dishes. They also offer wonderful homemade desserts. Afternoon tea and wine-tasting parties can be arranged. Location: Itaewon; at the end of the alleyway behind the Hamilton closest to post. Phone: 02-795-2465

Paris Grill - This lavish restaurant is perfect for a special night out. It is described as a "tiptop white tablecloth establishment" with impeccable service. The chef puts his passion for cooking into every dish. It is expensive, but the lunch buffet is considered a bargain. Sunday Brunches are special. Location: Inside the Seoul Grand Hyatt. Phone: 02-799-8161

Santorini - (Greek Cuisine) Servings are pretty generous; make sure you enjoy a freshly made brownie on your way out. Location: Itaewon; at the beginning of the main shopping strip just past Skin Food. The restaurant is on the right, on the second floor. Phone: 02-790-3474/75

The Jell - Membership Wine Bar. Phone: 02-797-6846; www.jellwine.com

Zelen - (Bulgarian Cuisine) A great place for a special occasion or date night. Dinner is excellent. They also offer a buffet lunch Tues-Sat for 12,000. Location: Itaewon; in the alley behind the Hamilton Hotel. Go up the alley next to the store 'Amigos,' across from Outback Steakhouse. At the end of the alley, look up the steps. Zelen is above Pattaya Thai and across from My Thai China. Phone: 02-749-0600. club.cyworld.com/zelen

JAPANESE

California Roll & Sushi - This restaurant offers a wide variety of sushi that you can enjoy in the small stylish restaurant or order for takeout. Location: Itaewon; across from the Hamilton on the first floor of the Coffee Bean Building, look for the colorful sign. Phone: 02-749-4277.

Jocooshee - They have set lunch menus on weekdays of Donkatsu dishes, tempura, udon, sushi and sashimi a la carte. The restaurant is very small and gets full quickly so reservations are recommended. Location: outside Gate 16 (PX gate), turn right at the US Embassy Resource Center and turn right on 3rd alley. The restaurant is on the left, the sign is in Japanese only. The door to the restaurant is blue with a picture of fish. Phone: 02-755-1213

Saboten - This restaurant specializes in Donkatsu, serving up the standard

pork cutlet as well as varieties with sweet potato or mozzarella cheese. While you wait for your food, you are given a bowl of seeds to crush up as part of the sauce. Location: I-Park Mall, West street section. Go to the fourth floor and work your way to the back side. It overlooks the train station.

ARABIAN, MEDITERRANEAN AND TURKISH

Arabian Restaurant - This is an inexpensive restaurant serving delicious food. Location: Itaewon; past the Hamilton Hotel on the left side of the main street, next to Kraze Burger. Phone: 02-798-1385

Petra - This is a reasonably priced Middle Eastern restaurant, serving delicious dishes of humus, tabouli, kebabs and an assortment of lamb dishes. Location: Itaewon; go over the pedestrian overpass close to Noksapyeong Station. You will see the restaurant about 50m to the right after crossing the street. There is a very steep set of stairs leading up to the restaurant. Phone: 02-790-4433 or 019-840-9630. www.petrakorea.com

Saffron Arab & Indian cuisine including kebabs, curries, naan & khubz, hummus, babaganoush, lamb, chicken, saffron rice & biryani, vegetarian choices, lassis, teas, coffees, and gulab jamun! Appetizers were around ₩8,000 and main entrees averaged ₩20,000. Delicious, with a lovely atmosphere and great service. Take the metro line 2 to Euljiro 1(il)-ga Station, exit #6. Walk straight ahead until you will see the sign for Saffron or the Ibis Hotel on the left (it is in the same building). You could also just hop in a cab and tell them to take you to the Ibis Hotel in Myeong-dong.

Sultan Turkish Kebab House - This is a favorite place to grab a quick chicken or lamb kebab. It is very small, but the food is great. The service is fast and inexpensive. Location: Itaewon; down the street past the Cold Stone Creamery, take the first alley on the left. It is on your left hand side. Phone: 02-749-3890

TEX-MEX

On the Border - A TexMex chain restaurant from the States, offering a great selection of Mexican-American style meals. Location: There are 4 locations: Sinchon (Line 2, Station 240, exit 4), at the top of the stairs walk ahead about one and a half blocks, the restaurant is on the left on the 2nd floor; COEX Mall; Times Square; and Apgujeong. The website has an English option and contains detailed maps for all locations. Phone: 02-324-0682 (Sinchon); 02-565-0682 (COEX Mall); Times Square (02-2672-0682); 02-518-0682 (Apgujeong); www.ontheborder.co.kr

Tomatillo - Southern California-influenced Mexican food such as tacos, burritos, quesadillas and tostadas are prepared with fresh ingredients. Location:

There are three locations in Seoul: Jongak (Line 1 to Jongak Station, exit 6; 50m on left), Hyundai COEX (Line 2 to Samsung Station; in the food court of Hyundai Department Store, B2 level), Gangnam (Line 2 to Yeoksam Station, exit 2; enter the underground Gangnam Finance Center and walk through the revolving doors; walk straight, it's on B2 level). Phone: 02-734-0628. www.tomatillo.co.kr

Vatos Urba Tacos – Great Mexican restaurant with owners who spent some serious time in Texas. All kinds of menu options with great margaritas! Located in Itaewon. Walk down Itaewon Street until the first road on the right going by the Bag Man stores. Walk a block and take a left on the next street. Vatos is across from a Family Mart and on second floor above a coffee shop. Telephone 02-797-8226 or Facebook page: Vatos Urban Tacos for more information.



Saemangeum Seawall at Kunsan – Photo by Claire Wentzel

TRAVEL IN KOREA

THE ADVENTURE AWAITS

There is so much to see and do in Korea, that it can be hard to know where to begin. If you are the adventurous sort, buy a good map and an English/Korean dictionary, acquire some won, and just go explore. Koreans are friendly people who go out of their way to help you if you are trying to learn about their country. Another option is to start your exploration by joining a group tour with the USO, The Royal Asiatic Society or spend the day on the Seoul City Bus tour.

TRAVELING WITHIN SEOUL

The majority of the sites in this section can be easily reached using the subway or bus. You may want to stop by the USO or ACS before heading out to pick up English maps, information on local cuisine and culture, subway maps and bus schedules. Once out in the city, most tourist areas have Tourist Information booths with maps of the local neighborhoods. Keep an eye out

for a monthly publication called The Beetle Map that features certain areas of interest. Another monthly tourist magazine called Korea Rainbow has easy to read subway and street maps.

The official website of the City of Seoul is english.seoul.go.kr and offers information on what is happening in and around Seoul along with interactive maps of Seoul and the surrounding area.

Google Maps are a useful tool when searching for specific locations in Seoul. The search engine works better if you can copy and paste the Hangul name of the location or business into the search bar. The map itself is written in Hangul so keep an English map close by for translation.

For ideas and information on hotels in Seoul, or other parts of Korea, visit www.koreahotels.net.

City Transport

Driving in Seoul can be extremely hazardous, especially if you are new to Korea. Case in point, Koreans who drive in Seoul are required to have a special driver's license to navigate the streets of their capital. So it's a good thing Seoul is covered by an efficient and extremely comprehensive public transportation system.

Subway

There are 8 lines and over 200 stations in this extremely comprehensive system. Line 1 runs over 100 km from Soyosan in the north to Cheonan in the south. It is possible to go to USAG-Red Cloud, USAG-Casey and Osan Air Base by subway. An extension now reaches Incheon International Airport. Fares start at W900 and rarely exceed W2,000.

When you purchase your ticket or T-Money Card ask for a Subway map in English at the kiosk. On the back of the map is a detailed listing of places to go in Seoul, what line to get on, what stop to get off at, which exit to take, and how far you have to walk on foot. The admission fees and times of operation listed are subject to change.

If you are staying in the Seoul area for more than a few days it's a good idea to invest in a transport card like a T-Money Card or a Upass, available for W1,000 at all subway stations (also sold in convenience stores like Family Mart and 7-11). You will have to load the card with at least W5,000 but will save W100 on each subway or bus ride, not to mention time waiting in ticket lines. Cards can be loaded at any convenience store or in the automated subway ticket machines. T-Money cards can also be used in some taxis.

Buses

In comparison to the user friendly subway system, the bus system can be intimidating, but is very convenient. The buses are split into four colored categories. Blue buses travel long distances along major arterial routes; green buses are for shorter hops; red ones travel to the suburbs; yellow ones travel in tight loops. Route numbers and colors are marked on the side and rear of the bus, e.g. Y is yellow, R is red, etc. Fares start at ₩550 for yellow, ₩900 for red, ₩1500 for blue and green and increase with distance traveled.

The Express Bus Terminal is the hub of all long-distance bus traffic in the Republic of Korea. It is busy on a normal day and jammed on Korean holidays. Take the subway to the Express Bus Terminal Station (Line 3 or 7, exit 1). Another option is to take the bus; it can be faster. At gate 52 (Commissary gate) take a right, walk to the stop light and cross the street to the bus stop. Take bus 143 and get off at the second stop after you cross the river. For the return journey, make sure you are on the opposite side of the street and again take bus 143 to the first stop after crossing the bridge, (Hangang Middle School) which is close to Gate 52.

Taxis

Seoul's taxis are cheap and ubiquitous. For groups of three or four it is often cheaper to travel short distances by taxi rather than public transport. There is a 20% surcharge between midnight and 4am. The military installations have contracts with specific taxi companies for on- post service. There are taxi stands at the Dragon Hill Lodge, Moyer CAC, the commissary and the hospital. Coming back to post can be a little more complicated. From your cell phone call 1544-9080 to have a taxi dispatched to your location. A ₩1,000 dispatch fee will be added to your fare. Alternately, there are usually on-post taxis outside the Yongsan Train Station.

PLACES OF INTEREST

BUKCHON HANOK VILLAGE - Bukchon Hanok Village is a village where traditional Korean houses called hanok form a group, which encompasses Gahoe-dong, Jae-dong, and Samcheong-dong in Jongno-gu. Bukchon has been a traditional residential district for more than 600 years. The name Bukchon (meaning North Village) originated from it being the north village of Cheonggyecheon and Jong-no.

The village is located between two palaces arranged according to principles

of Sung Confucianism, which was the dominant ideology during the Joseon Dynasty, and has a large concentration of traditional Korean houses against an excellent landscape. Visitors can feel the warm heart of Korea from the landscape; the eaves of houses are connected and walls are shared.

The Gahoe-dong Traditional Village Cultural Festival is held in the streets of Bukchon Hanok Village by the Bukchon Nobility Life & Culture Pavilion and sculptures symbolizing Bukchon Hanok Village, where visitors can enjoy the lives of historical Koreans.

Directions: Subway line 3 to Anguk Station 328, exit 3.

CHEONGGYEcheon Stream - This is a rebirth of nature in the middle of downtown Seoul. The stream, which opened in the fall of 2005, flows east from Cheonggyecheon Square 6.5 kilometers to the Gosanja Bridge. There are wonderful walkways and rocky areas to sit and have lunch. At night there are even lights that accentuate the fountains.

Directions: To access this area take Line 4, Dongdaemun Station 421, exit 4. If you are facing the tall white Dongdaemun Shopping Building the stream is to your left. Walk out of the exit and look for a staircase leading down to the stream.

COEX MALL - See *Shopping - Department Stores*.

DLI (DAEHAN LIFE INSURANCE) 63 BUILDING - The tall, golden building south of the Han River is the tallest skyscraper in Korea. The 1st floor has a marvelous aquarium that features seal and sea lion shows and an IMAX theater. The 56th to 59th floors have Western, Chinese, and Japanese restaurants. An observation deck on the 60th floor offers a great view of the surrounding area. Admission prices vary depending on the attraction visited.

Directions: Subway line 5, Yeouinaru Station 527, Exit 1, 20 minute walk on foot. There is a parking garage if you decide to drive.

HAN RIVER BOAT CRUISE - A boat cruise along the Han River is one of the best ways to view Seoul's river front areas. Several boats cruise the waters of the Han, making 1-way and round-trip tours. In addition to the regularly scheduled tours, the boats can be chartered for special occasions and parties. For reservations call 785-4411 or call the individual piers for more information or log onto www.hanriverland.co.kr or www.pleasureboat.co.kr.

NAMSANGOL TRADITIONAL FOLK VILLAGE - Located in P'il-dong, just to the north of Namsan Park, the Seoul government recreated a small village that resembles the architecture and gardens of the area during the Chosun Dynasty (1392-1910). The area contains 5 restored traditional houses, decorated with authentic furniture and decorations from the period.

NANTA COOKING THEATRE - This is an interesting theatrical show that features music created with cooking instruments. There will be flying food and flashing blades according to the pamphlet. Pick one up at the USO or call the booking number, 02-739-8288. www.nanta.co.kr

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF KOREA - Until October 2004, the National Museum was located in the Seokjojeon building in Gyeongbok Palace, in the former Imperial Household Museum. It re-opened in October 2005 in a new building within Yongsan Family Park. Inside the museum, benches and resting spaces have been installed in many places for tired visitors. There is a food court, cultural products stores, coffee shop and restaurants. No admission fee is required for the permanent exhibits, the Children's Museum, and temporary exhibitions except special exhibitions that require separate tickets. Visitors must get a free admission pass at the ticket booths before entering the museum.

Directions: Walk out gate 17 (Visitors Gate) turn left and walk about 150 meters toward Yongsan Family Park. Museum is on the left.

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9am-5pm; Wednesday & Saturday: 9am-8pm; Sunday & Holidays: 9am-6pm. Closed Mondays.

THE PALACE DISTRICT - This area of central Seoul is bounded by five grand palaces (see Palace section for descriptions). While visits to one or two palaces may suffice, there is much more to see in the area. Check out the traditional tea shops and trinkets of the major tourist center Insadong-gil; for art galleries try Samcheong-dong; and stroll through streets studded with traditional hanok buildings in Bukchon-dong. Also in the area is the official residence of the Korean President, Cheongwadae, also known as the "Blue House."

Directions: Take subway line 3 to Anguk or Gyeongbokgung Stations for easy walking access to these attractions.

SEOUL ARTS CENTER - This amazing center houses many concert halls and galleries. You can spend a lot of time wandering from place to place in this extensive space. There is an Opera Theatre, Concert Hall, Recital Hall, Hangaram Art Museum, Hangaram Design Art Museum (which features rotating exhibits),

Seoul Calligraphy Art Museum, several gift shops and a small restaurant. There is always something going on so check their website www.sac.or.kr or call 02-580-1300.

Directions: It is an easy drive, straight across the Banpo Bridge to the last stop light and you will be facing it. Don't take the tunnel; it goes right under it. Turn left at the light and then make an immediate right into the parking area where there is a nominal parking fee.

SEOUL CITY BUS TOUR - This bus tour takes you all over the city. The best part is, you can get on and off the bus as many times as you wish, visiting whatever interests you. There are English speaking guides as well as audio guides on the bus. A one day pass is approximately ₩10,000 for adults. Check their website for more details: en.seoulcitybus.com

You can catch the bus across the street from the War Museum, outside Gate 10 (Look for the pole marked Seoul City Bus Tour) and also in front of the I-Park Mall. The bus is marked Seoul City Bus Tour. No buses run on Mondays.

SEOUL TOWER - Visible from almost anywhere in Seoul, Seoul Tower serves as an excellent landmark. Built on a 262 meter peak in Namsan Park, the tower reaches to 480 meters above sea level. When the weather and pollution levels cooperate, visiting the observation tower (370 meters above sea level) allows you to view the entire city and surrounding areas. There are several restaurants at the Tower, including a rotating restaurant above the observation deck.

Directions: See Namsan Park later in this section.

WAR MUSEUM - Across the street from Korea's Department of Defense, and next to the U.S. Army's Yongsan Garrison, is a fitting place for Korea's War Museum. Its impressive granite facade and surrounding park with vintage airplanes and tanks catch the eyes of people passing by along the main road. The museum building has 6 display rooms showing an almost 5,000 year history of foreign invasions, from before the Three Kingdoms Period through to the Korean War.

Directions: This is located on the road that runs between south post & main post. It is accessible from Noksapyeong Station (Line 6)

Hours: 9:30am-6pm, closed Monday - If a holiday falls on a Monday closed the next day.

Admission: Adults ₩3,000, School students ₩2,000, Kindergartners ₩1,000.

PALACES, MUSEUMS AND WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Seoul is the ancient seat of Korea's royalty and, as such, there are a number of palaces that offer a glimpse into the country's past. The royal palaces of Seoul are the pride of Korea. Although most of the buildings were damaged or destroyed by war, their historical and aesthetic significance are still appreciated throughout the world. All of the palaces and their contents date from the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910) and restorations are ongoing. The royal palaces are located in downtown Seoul. At specific times during the day, there are special ceremonies performed such as the changing of the guard or a traditional Korean wedding ceremony. Most palace admission fees are between ₩1,000 and ₩5,000. The palaces listed below open at 9am.

CHANGDEOKGUNG AND BIWON (SECRET GARDEN) - A UNESCO World Heritage Site, this was first built in 1405 and was the seat of power between 1618 and 1896. The buildings have all been recently restored and repainted. Buildings of particular note include the blue-roofed Seonjeongjeon, which was the king's office, and the Daejojeon ("Great Making Hall"), his bedchamber, but most famous of all is the Biwon ("Secret Garden") in the back. Access to the complex is by guided tour only (₩3,000) except on Thursdays when only self-guided tours are available. English tours are offered at 11:30am, 1:30pm and 3:30pm; Korean language tours are available every half hour.

Directions: Take Line 3 to Anguk Station.

Hours: 9am to 5pm, November through February, 9am to 6pm, May through October, closed Monday.

CHANGGYEONG-GUNG PALACE - was built in 1104 as a summer palace for the kings of the Koryo Dynasty. It later became one of the main palaces during the Joseon Dynasty and was used as a temporary home for the king while Gyeongbok Palace was being built. Unlike other palaces that have a north-south orientation, Changgyeong Palace faces East-West. Accessible on the same entry ticket is the UNESCO World Heritage site, Jongmyo Shrine. The two sites are connected by a foot bridge.

Directions: Take Subway Line 4 to Hyehwa Station (Station 420) or Jongno-3-ga or Jongno-5-ga Stations (stop 131 or 130).

Hours: 9am to 5:30pm, November through February and 9am to 6pm, May through October. Closed Tuesdays.

Admission: Adults ₩1,000, Children (7 - 18 years) ₩500.

DEOKSUGUNG PALACE - is a vivid contrast to other nearby palaces. Built during the mid-fifteenth century, the architecture is a fusion of both Korean (outside) and Western (inside) architecture, located across from City Hall. www.deoksugung.go.kr

Directions: Take Subway lines 1 or 2 to the City Hall Stop (Station 203 or 133).

Hours: 9am to 5:30pm, November through February and 9am to 6pm, May through October. Closed Mondays.

Admission: Adults: W1,000 (groups: W800) Children (7 - 18 years old) W500, Soldiers: W500 (groups: W400).

GYEONGBOKGUNG PALACE - is Seoul's grandest palace and was the seat of power for centuries before it was razed in 1592 and again in 1910 by the Japanese. Large parts have been restored and the vast grounds house the Joseon Palace Museum and the National Folk Museum.

Directions: Take Subway Line 3 to Gyeongbok station (327), exit 5. The Palace is located behind the Gwanghwamun Gate at Gyeongbokgung.

Admission: W3,000.

Hours: 9am to 5pm, November through February, and 9am-6pm, May through October. Closed Tuesday.

KYONGHUI PALACE - Close to Sejong Cultural Center, this palace was commissioned by King Kwanghae in 1617. It was originally named Kyongdok until 1760, when King Yongjo renamed it Kyonghui.

Directions: Take Line 5 to Sodaemun Station (532), exit 4, and walk 5 minutes northeast.

Open daily. Conveniently located within the Kyonghui Palace grounds is the Seoul Municipal Museum of Art.

UNHYEONGUNG PALACE - This palace has several elegant buildings to tour. On the last Saturday of April and October, the wedding ceremony of King Gojong and Queen Myeongseong is reenacted here. Open daily.

Directions: Take Line 3 to Anguk Station, Exit 4.

SEOUL FESTIVALS

CHERRY BLOSSOM – Generally occurs sometime in April. The exact days are hard to predict but “Seoul-ites” get their picnic gear together as soon as the soft pink buds start to open. The most popular place is Yeouido; bring a bottle of soju

and a bunch of friends.

HI SEOUL FESTIVAL - This 10 day celebration of the coming of summer takes place in early May. There's no better time to be in Seoul. Events range from fireworks displays to tea ceremonies to men tightrope walking across the Han River.

BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY PARADE - This is a must see! Seoul celebrates the birth of Buddha with a festival of paper lanterns. Before the festival, traditional lanterns are exhibited at Bongeun-sa Temple. On Yeondeung-nori, the eve of the festival, there are traditional Buddhist celebrations at the 14th-century Jogyesa Temple in Insadong. The opening ceremony for the parade itself is held at nearby Dongdaemun and the procession of lanterns then moves along Jongno Street. The festival is notable not only for its large colorful lanterns on the backs of trucks but for the thousands of delicate hand-held lanterns in the shape of lotus flowers carried by adults and children wearing traditional hanbok. The festival is in May. Check dates and a schedule of events at www.lf.or.kr/eng.

SEOUL PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL - Although its main focus is to highlight Korean talent, there are acts from as far afield as Latvia and Israel. It takes place at various venues across Seoul during a three week period in late September and October.

PARKS, THEME PARKS AND ZOOS

There are several large theme parks in the vicinity of Seoul. A day out to these parks requires planning to avoid massive crowds (avoid public holidays and Saturday afternoons if you can) and take plenty of sun protection in summer. Some of the following descriptions were prepared by an expat mother of toddlers.

CHILDREN'S GRAND PARK - is a large, older park with a small zoo near the back. Along the way to the zoo there is a giant kids' play area in a sand pit. Around the corner from the play area, there is a water feature where kids play in a shallow, concrete stream running over steps and rocks. Toddlers can splash and play on a hot day. Located up the hill on the left is a dog petting area with small and large dogs. The areas are well-supervised by dog trainers. Buy W1,000 tickets at the gift shop before going up.

Directions: Take line 5 to Ahasan Station (545), exit 4 or Line 7 to Children's Grand Park Station (726), exit 1.

EVERLAND - Composed of play facilities, shopping facilities, and restaurants, Everland is the seventh largest theme park in the world. It is divided into 3 areas: Festival World, Caribbean Bay, and Speedway. Festival World is a theme park complex consisting of 5 theme zones: Global Fair, American Adventure, Magic Land, European Adventure, Equatorial Adventure, and Safari World. Caribbean Bay is a water park offering a variety of water attractions. Everland Speedway is the “only” racing track in Korea. You can drive your car on the speedway as well as watch a race. This park also contains a full-scale zoo which includes a “mini” bus safari through the African animal complex.

Directions: Easy drive and ample parking. Take Highway 1 to the I-50 split. Exit onto I-4 toward Wonju (heading east) and follow signs to Everland. For your return, follow signs to Seoul, they will put you back onto Highway 1.

Admission prices vary depending on your choices. Season passes are available. Check out www.everland.com or call 82-31-320-5000 for details. Hours are subject to change depending on the season.

HANGANG RIVER PARK - A “development project” in the 1980s, Hangang River Citizen’s Park covers a large area along the river’s edge. A sports haven, you can see people strolling or jogging along the trail paths, in-line skaters, bicyclers, and soccer fields or basketball courts. Citizen’s Park is composed of: Gwangnaru, Jamsil, Ttukseom, Jamwon, Banpo, Ichon, Yeouido, Yanghwa, Mangwon, Seonyudo, Nanji, and Gangseojigu - a total of 12 districts. Citizen’s Park is filled with the lights from the River and the city buildings in the evenings.

Directions: Go out Gate 17, cross underground through Ichon Station, Exit 4 and continue walking 10 minutes to the river.

LOTTE WORLD - A giant indoor/outdoor activity complex and amusement center. In the complex itself you’ll find a year-round indoor ice-skating rink (skate rental available), indoor swimming pool, folk museum and bowling alley. The main attraction however is Lotte World Adventure and Magic Island! Lotte World Adventure offers indoor rides for the younger children, a monorail, musical acts and a laser show that takes place nightly at 9pm. Thrill seekers should venture to Magic Island, the outdoor fun park, where they can free fall 70m on the heart stopping Gyro Drop ride.

Directions: Take Subway Line 4 from either Gate 17 or 19 to Sadang Station. At Sadang Station, transfer to Line 2. Follow the signs for Line 2, be sure to go up the stairs at the very end of the station and make a sharp “U” turn to the right, this leads to the platform for line 2. Take the Line 2 train to Jamsil Station, and follow the signs to Exit 3-Lotte Adventure. Continue walking underground past

the information booth. At the second “intersection” turn left, the ticket counter for Lotte World is straight ahead.

Hours: 9:30am-11pm 365 days. Inquiries: 82-2-411-2000/3400 (ask for English speaker), www.lotteworld.com

Admission: Day Pass (admission and fees for all rides). Adults W35,000, Students (13-18) W30,000, Children (4-12) W26,000. Big 5 (admission and fees for 5 rides): Adults W20,000, Students (13-18) W17,000, Children (4-12) W15,000. Admission (no rides): Adults W24,000, Students W21,000, Children W18,000. Night Admission: 5pm-11pm (30% discount).

NAMSAN PARK - Seoul’s main peak, Namsan or “South Hill,” once marked the southern edge of old royal Seoul. Remains of the city walls can still be seen in some of the park’s wooded areas. In addition to Seoul Tower, Namsan Park contains many other places of interest such as Namsan Botanical Gardens, Namsan Public Library and several statues in memorial of Korean patriots. The park also contains a Paljakjung or octagonal pavilion, an aquarium and a cable car leading to Seoul Tower. Admission prices vary for each attraction. Open daily at 9:30am. For more information visit www.parks.seoul.go.kr/eng and click on “Namsan Park.”

Directions: By car - drive or use a taxi, park at the National Theater of Korea parking lot. You will see a food stand near the entrance to the National Theater, this is a bus stop. A main line bus (Namsan Circular Line) will come and pick you up and take you up to the Tower. You can use a T-Money card or the cost is approximately W600 per person. When leaving, you will have to take the whole bus route to return to the National Theater, but this only takes about 20 minutes. You can also ride a cable car from the Namsan cable car station. There is a parking lot available there. By subway- get off at Chungmuro Station, exit 2 and transfer to the Namsan Circular Line (bus main line 402 or branch line 0014, 4012). To use the subway to get to the cable car station get off at Myeongdong Station 424, exit 3. It is a ten minute walk uphill to the cable car station. By foot - exit Camp Coiner (Gate 20), turn right at the stop light. Follow the road uphill until it becomes a path. Follow the path and signs all the way up. Take a bottle of water with you!!

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART AND SEOUL LAND

are attached to Seoul Grand Park, so visitors can stop at all three places at the same time. Admission fees vary depending on your choices. Check out www.moca.go.kr/eng for more information. You may purchase tickets for the zoo and Seoul Land at the USO or inquire about the foreigner’s discount at the

Guest Services kiosk outside the entrance gate. Hours are subject to change, depending on season.

Directions: Take Line 4 to Seoul Grand Park Station (437), exit 1. Walk to the tram and follow the signs to the zoo, amusement park or museum.

NATURE PARK - Near the Park Grand Hyatt in Itaewon is a series of stroller-friendly nature trails. Walking along the hilly trails in the thick woods you'll forget you're in a crowded city. There is parking across from the high end fashion shops that are to the left and across from the Hyatt. It is also possible to find street-side parking on a weekday near the left side of the Hyatt.

OLYMPIC PARK - One of the World's top five sculpture parks is Korea's Olympic Sculpture Park. This park contains the World Peace Gate, the remains of a Mongchontoseong Earthen Fortress, an outdoor sculpture garden, sports facilities and walking trails. Olympic Sculpture Park was built to celebrate the 24th Olympics held in Seoul as a cultural event and to commemorate its spirit 'Harmony and Progress.' The Sculpture Park has over 200 large modern sculptures by world-class artists. The Seoul Olympic Museum is also located here. This museum has various displays for the avid sports fan and an AV theater where you can share in the excitement of the Seoul Olympic Games. It is also the Home of the Doosan Bears, Korea's first baseball team, and the LG Twins. Check the website for game times at www.doosanbears.com. Both teams play at Jamsil Stadium at Olympic Park. For more information about the museum visit www.88olympic.co.kr/English.

Directions: Take Line 2, Sports Complex station Exit 5 & 6

SAJIK PARK - Originally built around a stone altar that was erected in 1394, this park was created in 1921 during Japan's occupation of Korea. Sajik Park is also home to other famous historical landmarks including Tangun Hall, Chongno Municipal Library and Hwanghakdong. An archery range is located at the rear of the park, and every year a national competition is held. Visitors can hike to Mt. Inwansan from the main gate. Nearby is Gyeongbok Palace and Gyeonghui Palace.

Directions: Take Line 3 to Gyeongbokgung Station (327) and walk toward Sajik Tunnel.

SEOUL GRAND PARK - Located in the suburbs of South Seoul this enormous park has a number of attractions. It is definitely worth the trip for its two great zoos. It's a long, uphill walk from the parking lot or you can take the tram up the



Seoul Zoo – Photo by Mary Soergel

steps to the station. The children’s petting zoo on the left allows you to feed llamas and donkeys and pet free-roaming pigs and watch monkeys. The larger zoo on the right contains a good collection of animals plus it has a fabulous dolphin and seal show. The Seoul Land Amusement Park is also located on these grounds.

Directions: See National Museum.

SEOUL LAND AMUSEMENT PARK - This park offers theme areas each with its own special characteristics, and has over 40 rides and 5 outdoor amphitheatres. Performances, exhibitions and events such as flower festivals take place in the park.

Directions: See National Museum.

WOONGJIN PLAY CITY - Recently renovated, this indoor theme park is equipped with ski slopes, a golf range, spa, and water park. Take towels. You can rent towels but they are very small. When you check in you get an electronic watch which is the lock for your locker and also an electronic charge device for you to pay for lifejackets and food. When you check out, you pay for what was charged to your watch. Don’t forget to take advantage of the military discount. (This park was previously known as Tiger World.)

Directions: From Exit 2 of Bugae Station (Line 1), take Town Bus 579 or City Bus 79 and then get off at Sangil High School (takes 5 min). From the school, walk for 5

minutes to Woongjin. Alternatively, you can take a taxi at Bugae Station (W2,500).

Driving Directions: Go out Gate 19, Cross the Hangangyo Bridge, follow it until it turns into I-120, then take a left (South) on I-100. You'll see signs for it. Parking is free.

YONGSAN FAMILY PARK - Located next to the National Museum of Korea in Yongsan. The front parking lot is small, but you can also park in the museum parking lot and walk around the back way. This park is the former golf course for the U.S. Military here so it's all rolling hills and great open grassy spaces. There is a large exercise machine area, but no kids' playground. Large public art and Weeping Willow trees over the lake make for great pictures, so bring food and a picnic blanket and something to feed the ducks.

Directions: Walk out Gate 17 and take a left toward the National Museum of Korea. You'll see it on the left.

TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF SEOUL

Travel outside of Seoul can seem intimidating but it is good to get out and see the different regions and terrains of Korea. This is a "get you started" list of places to go and see in South Korea.

See the Camps, Posts & Other Installations in Korea section for information on visiting other military installations in Korea.

SKI RESORTS

There are currently eleven ski resorts in Korea. The ski season is rather short, generally between mid-December and early March. If the season is mild most resorts have facilities for artificial snow. Toward late February conditions tend to be wet and slushy by mid-morning, so go early. There are a lot of beginners on the slopes, so it is advisable to be cautious and to be aware of who is coming down behind you. Skiing is rapidly becoming one of the most popular sports in Korea. Although there are a variety of resort areas with ski slopes, the popular areas are very crowded on weekends. The USO frequently sponsors group trips. Ski clothing is abundant and inexpensive but the equipment is another matter. If you have ski equipment and plan on skiing a lot, bring your own. Rental items are available at most resorts, but buying ski items there can be expensive!

There are several resorts located within 2 hours of Seoul, but the more luxurious resorts are up to 5 hours away. Look into Yongpyong and Muju if you are interested in a "world class" resort. The following list describes just a few of

the ski areas available.

BEARS TOWN - Located an hour outside of Seoul in Pocheon, Gyeonggi Province. The resort has slopes for both beginners and advanced skiers. Lessons are available. Hours: 10:00-12:00, 14:00-16:00. Half day and nighttime packages are available. Take an Ildong bound bus from Seoul's Sangbong, Intercity Bus Terminal. Get off at Naechon Station and take a 2-minute taxi ride to the resort.

CHONMASSAN STAR HILL RESORT - Located 1 hour northeast of Seoul, this resort has four slopes and lifts. 02-2233-5311 Resort: 031-594-1211. www.starhillresort.com.

PHOENIX PARK AND MISAN VALLEY - This resort is located 2 hours from Seoul in Gangwon-do. This resort was a candidate for the 2010 Winter Olympics. Resort information: 02-527-9511 www.phoenixpark.co.kr (click on the little gray E for English in the top right corner).

YANGJI PINE RESORT - Definitely the closest resort to Seoul, just 40 minutes outside of Seoul in Yongin, Gyeonggi Province. The resort has a good mix of beginner and advanced ski slopes as well as some slopes for sledding. Yangji is 60 km (37 miles) from Seoul. Hours: 0900-1700 for a full day. Half day and night time packages are also available.

YONGPYONG (DRAGON VALLEY) - Korea's "Skiing Mecca," Yongpyong hosted the World Cup Ski Competition in 1998 and 2000 and the Winter Asian Games in 1999. Yongpyong is 134 miles east of Seoul. Driving time is 3.5 to 5 hours. Information (resort): 033 335 5757. Shuttle bus service is available from Jamsil and Sports Complex stations (Line 2).

NORTHERN LOCATIONS

DEMILITARIZED ZONE (DMZ) AND PANMUNJOM - This is such an important part of Korean History and very important to see in order to truly understand the effect of being so close to the most heavily fortified border on the planet. This tour is better with a group where somebody else handles the necessary clearances. There are tours available through the USO and the Dragon Hill Lodge. The USO has a great tour that is very affordable; reserve your spot early because the buses fill up fast. The Dragon Hill Lodge half-day tour does not take you to the Panmunjom area and is more expensive.

TONG-IL (REUNIFICATION) OBSERVATORY, GOSEONG-GUN, GANGWON PROVINCE - The Observation Platform (OP), located north east of South Korea, is one of the places that provides you with living evidence of the

division of the Korean Peninsula. The Unification and Security Park is located 10 km south of Tong-il Observation Platform and is used as the educational place for national security. At the Park are the Entrance Report, Tourist Bureau, Education Assembly, stalls with vendors selling various souvenirs (from North and South Korea), a Dining Room and Natural Mineral Museum. This is also where you fill out the paperwork to gain permission to continue on to the OP, located within "The Civilian Passage Restriction Line." Paperwork requires the following information: your family name, the license plate number of your car, and the first names and ages of those going to the OP; there is no age limit here (there is at Panmunjom). There is a parking fee along with the entrance fee.

Admission: Adults W3,000, Child W1,500.

Groups of 30: Adult W2,000, Child W1,200.

Parking: Vehicles up to 9 seats W3,000, Over 10 seats W4,000. Buses W3,000.

About 4 km down the road from the Unification and Security Park toward the OP is a military checkpoint. Show your paperwork and obtain another pass which you put on the dashboard. To the left of the parking lot is the 6.25 Museum dedicated to the Korean War and the inevitable gift shop at the end of the museum tour. Wear sturdy shoes as there is a climb up to the OP, which is 700 meters above sea level; at the half way point you will pass the "Last Restroom."

The Observatory was opened in February 1984, and the North Korea Hall opened June 1988. It provides a wonderful view of the 4 km wide DMZ, North Korea and Mt. Geum-gang, the mountain range that looks like the two humps on a camel's back. There is also a view of an island in South Korea. Between the Observation Platform and the Unification and Security Park is the DMZ Museum. This is a fairly new addition which opened in August 2009.

Directions: Take National Road 46, to National Road 6, to National Road 44. This road will take you through Seoraksan to National Road 7 which runs along the East Coast. For more information call the Tong-il Security Park at (033)682-0088.

Hours: Tues-Sun 0900-1700. Closed Mondays.

Admission: Adult W2,000, Teenagers W1,400, and Children W1,000.

GANGHWADO ISLAND - Located approximately 50km to the west of Seoul, and less than 1 km off the coast of Incheon, Ganghwado Island is the fifth-largest island in Korea and rich in both history and natural beauty. Mt. Manisan and the Chamseongdan Alter are located here, along with several temples and military sights. Visitors can easily find Ganghwado local products such as Hwamunseok, rice and ginseng at the town markets. Famous for its 'stamina

producing' ginseng, Ganghwado is still a rural island that seems oddly distant from the bustle and craziness of Seoul, despite the fact that it is less than a two-hour bus ride away. Egrets stalk through verdant rice fields, gulls chase ferries and the pace of life is slow. Attractions include numerous small fortifications, one of Korea's largest dolmens, a prehistoric burial chamber (which is a World Heritage monument) Mt. Manisan with an ancient stone altar on its summit, and a 10km coastal bicycle track.

INCHEON - A bustling, industrial port 36km west of Seoul is big enough to warrant its own subway line. The international airport sits on an offshore island, so be sure (if you're heading to the airport) that you don't go to Incheon proper. The city has a nice waterfront area with amusement rides, sushi shops, stores and ferries, as well as a very accessible Chinatown. Come here for a great day trip out of Seoul, sample some different foods, stroll along with the dating couples or tour groups in Wolmido waterfront or use Incheon as a stepping stone to the more remote islands. The sight of MacArthur's famous landing, this busy port city on the western coast offers a park commemorating the event, a small museum that houses the city's collection of archeological and historical materials. It is also an excellent place for a great seafood meal. Take the train or travel during off hours. Otherwise the normally one hour trip can take two more hours. The Memorial Hall for Incheon Landing Operation is located here. The hall was created by the Incheon citizens to honor those who sacrificed their lives to preserve democracy and freedom on the Peninsula.

POCHEON HERB ISLAND & SINBUK HOT SPRING - These two travel destinations near Camp Casey are eco-friendly tours enhanced by the aroma of herbs. Both sites are within a 10 minute bus trip from each other, making a combined trip convenient and worthwhile. The Pocheon Herb Island houses both outdoor and indoor gardens, a bookstore that carries herb-related books and accessories, a craft store selling herb craftworks, a bakery selling herb bread and cookies as well as a restaurant and coffee shop all within an area of 8.3 acres. There is also an aromatherapy facility, making it a great place for a one-night, two-day trip. Visit www.korea.net for more information.

HIKING MT. SORAK - There are various places to hike in Korea. One of the most renowned is Soraksan National Park. Soraksan means "Snow Summit Mountain." This mountain is always busy, particularly during the peak season during the fall when the leaves change. By 6:00am the park is packed with thousands of Koreans ready for a day's hike. Entrance fee is about ₩3,200.

There are restaurants, temples, and statues, including a big Buddha statue. The park is crowded and if you are looking for peace and quiet you will not find it here. It cannot be denied, however that Soraksan is one of South Korea's 'Wonders' because of the breathtaking scenery. The USO has some hiking tours available during the fall hiking season. Check their calendar for upcoming events and overnight tours to Soraksan.

CENTRAL LOCATIONS

ICHEON/YOJU CERAMIC KILNS - Icheon Village of Ceramics is a definite destination for those interested in pottery. It is famous for its Celadon manufacturing and there are numerous ceramic studios, ceramic shops and even a ceramic museum. Various experiences related to ceramics can be enjoyed at the Icheon Ceramics Festival held from the end of September to early October. There will also be unusual ceramic sculptures on display that will certainly attract visitors. Icheon Ceramics Festival provides a place for learning and experiencing the culture of ceramics through international exhibitions. The World Ceramic Exposition Foundation has a wonderful website that gives information on various museums including the Icheon Ceramic Festival. Log on to www.wocef.com.

YOJU - is the site of King Sejong's tomb. It is east of Icheon and also has many pottery factories. Log on to www.ceramics.or.kr for more info. Phone: 31-635-7976. The USO offer tours throughout the year.

INDEPENDENCE MEMORIAL HALL OF KOREA - Located just south of Osan, the memorial hall commemorates the people who struggled for freedom against foreign invasions throughout Korea's long history. It is easy to navigate and there are lots of English descriptions. www.lifeinkorea.com/Travel2/224

Directions: Easy afternoon trip; located off the Kyongbu Expressway.

Admission: Adults W1,600, Students W1,100, Children W700. Open year round. Closed Mondays.

KYONGJU (GYEONGJU) - Known as "the museum without walls," Kyongju was once the capital of the Shilla Dynasty and it remained so for nearly 1000 years. In the 7th century under King Munmu, Shilla conquered the neighboring kingdoms of Goguryeo, Baekje and Gyeongju becoming the capital of the whole peninsula. Gyeongju holds more tombs, temples, rock carvings, pagodas,

Buddhist statues, palace ruins, pleasure gardens and castles than any other place in South Korea. Tumuli (grass-covered burial mounds) are the most conspicuous and accessible of the sights. One cannot truly know Gyeongju's charms without visiting its outlying districts. Gyeongju covers a vast 1323 sq km, and would require several days to take it all in. There is also a great amusement park here Gyeongju World.

KOREAN FOLK VILLAGE - This beautiful folk village has a large collection of thatched and tiled traditional houses that take at least half a day to look around. Set around a quiet river are a temple, a Confucian school and shrine, a market, a magistrate's house with examples of punishments, storehouses, a bullock pulling a cart and all sorts of household furnishings and tools. In this historical and rural village atmosphere, artisans wearing hanbok (traditional Korean clothing) create pots, make paper and weave bamboo, while other workers tend to vegetable plots, pigs and chickens. Even the confections (some of them) are handmade; look for the 'magician' making dragon's beard candy – it's made from honey hand-pulled to widths of a human hair. www.koreanfolk.co.kr

Directions: Located about an hour south of Seoul; accessible by car or subway.

Admission: Adult ₩12,000, Child ₩8,000.

Hours: 9am-6pm, Mar-Oct, 9am-5pm, Nov-Feb. Traditional musicians, dancers, acrobats and tightrope walkers perform, and you can watch a wedding ceremony. Events happen twice daily and usually start around 11am and 3pm.

SOUTHEAST AND COASTAL LOCATIONS

CHINHAE - Chinhae is not only home to the Korean Navy, but is also the only U.S. Navy base in South Korea. Command Fleet Activities Chinhae comprises approximately 84 acres and is adjacent to the largest ROK Navy Base. Chinhae is also home to the ROK Naval Academy. Located on the southern coast, Chinhae is approximately 7 hours drive from Seoul or around 4 hours by the KTX Train. Try to stay in one of the billeting rooms if you visit Chinhae: DSN 762-5336 or Commercial 0505-762-5336.

The Cherry Blossom Festival is held annually in honor of Admiral Ye Sunshin, a famous Korean naval hero who helped defeat the Japanese during the invasions of 1592-1598. The festival usually begins in early April and runs for 12 days. During the 12 days, a profusion of cherry blossoms is in full bloom on the mountains, along the highways and all around town. It is the third largest cherry blossom festival in the world. During this time, food vendors and stands offering

Korean goods line the streets of Chinhae.

Korea's second largest island, Jeju, lies just south of Chinhae and is 90 minute ferry ride away. The island was once a POW camp during the Korean War and has subsequently become home to a thriving fishing and shipbuilding industry, along with first-class beaches and resorts.

HONGDO ISLAND - Hongdo Island is located 115 km southwest of Mokpo Harbor and is composed of about 20 islands. The name Hongdo means "Red Island," a name derived from the unusual reddish brown color that glows all around when the sun sets over the island. Because the entire island of Hongdo has been declared a Natural Monument, people are not allowed to enter areas other than the villages and designated tourist areas. You cannot remove anything from the island. Visitors that break the rules will be fined.

Directions: Take the train to Mokpo which is in southwestern Korea. From there, take the ferry to Hongdo Island. The only accommodations available are "yogwans," but these are clean and pleasant for a night stay in good weather.

JEJU ISLAND, JEJU-DO - The largest of Korea's islands, has mild weather year round. Vacationers will find sandy beaches, hiking trails and even a new amusement park, 'Cheju World'. Natural attractions include the Samsonghyol Caves, waterfalls and the volcanic scenery of Songsanilchulbong Park. Other things to do on the island include golf, horseback riding, windsurfing, local restaurants, nightlife and shopping districts. The flights leave regularly and are short, making this island ideal for a quick getaway. Check with your travel agent or with the USO for booking details.

This is by no means a comprehensive list of things to do but it does offer some starting points. For additional information, consult the Yongsan Library or consider traveling with an organized group. One of the primary sources for travel information within Korea is the USO, which offers a wide variety of trips in Seoul and throughout the country. Schedules are available from the Moyer Community Activities Center, Camp Kim USO and the information desk at the Dragon Hill.

PUBLICATIONS OFFERING SEOUL/KOREA TRAVEL ADVICE

The Seoul Selection is a weekly newsletter that has all of the current events happening in Seoul. Access it through their website at www.seoulselection.com/seoul.

The Korea Herald has a travel section in its weekend issue, featuring a thorough article and map of a different place each week. The Yongsan Library has back issues if

you want to review them. www.koreaherald.com

Arirang Magazine, published by the American Women's Club (AWC), has many good travel articles. In addition, AWC sponsors trips to places off the beaten track (although these are only open to members). www.awcseoul.org

Discovery is a magazine published by the Seoul International Women's Association (SIWA) offering information on local activities. SIWA offers trips and social events to its members. www.siwapage.com

Korean Tourism Organization (KTO) is also an excellent source of information and assistance. Its main office is in downtown Seoul, Tel: 02-7299-497. A visit to the KTO is time well spent; you will come away with information on festivals, museums, dining, and just about anything else you may want to know about Korea. Visit english.visitkorea.or.kr for more information.

Many other organizations in Seoul offer excellent tours. Check out the English language newspapers in the Local Events column for details.

Other helpful tourism websites:

www.korea4expats.com: Seoul For Expats

www.lifeinkorea.com: Life in Korea

www.english.knps.or.kr: Korean National Parks Authority

www.english.seoul.go.kr: Seoul Metropolitan Government

www.korea.net: Korean Culture and Information Service

TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF KOREA

One of the greatest things about an assignment to Korea is its proximity to all the “exotic” places you have always wished to visit, but somehow they always seemed out of reach. Check into the package tours offered by the travel services located in the Dragon Hill Lodge, USO and Moyer Community Activity Center (See Travel Services at the end of this section.) There are also many reputable travel agents off-post. Ask around for a recommendation.

Traveling to countries in Asia from Korea can be both rewarding and relatively inexpensive if you follow a few simple guidelines.

GENERAL TRAVEL TIPS

Check that the area is not restricted by USFK due to terrorism, disease, etc. Below are some web sites and general information to help you with your travel plans:

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory, www.cdc.gov
- World Health Organization (WHO) Advisory, www.who.int/en
- U.S. State Department Public Announcement, travel.state.gov
- Check with your travel agent on the visa/passport requirements for the country you are visiting. They vary from country to country. Leave ample time for processing these documents.
 - Always know the immunization requirements of the country/countries you’re going to visit.
 - Plan ahead. Dealing with travel agents or airlines in Korea is somewhat different than the experiences you may have had elsewhere, so you need to have plenty of time to make sure all details are in order and that you are getting the best deal possible.
 - Research, research, research. Once you have selected a destination, find out everything you can about which airlines are available, hotel promotions, and travel agents. You will find you can save hundreds of dollars by shopping around.
 - Talk with those who have traveled during their tour in Korea. Their experiences can often save you a lot of time, trouble and money.
 - Don’t allow your travel agent/group tour promoter to wait until the last minute to provide you with your tickets, accommodations confirmation, etc. It’s not easy to get your military leave orders changed if a travel agent lets you down at the last minute.
 - Check with the airline yourself to see what fares are and always ask about discount rates. Check with the international reservations center of the local hotels

that give military discounts (Hilton, Hyatt, Sheraton, Ramada, and Intercontinental). You will often find that you can put your own package together for less than what some of the tour operators are quoting.

- If it's offered, always buy baggage insurance when traveling in Asia. If your luggage does get lost, you can buy enough personal items to hold you over until it finally shows up. **Never check** valuables in your luggage, always hand carry them.

- Learn as much as possible about your intended destination and don't pay for a lot of "optional" tours to places you don't really want to see. Be aware of the fact that most of the airports in Asia have an airport tax, some of which have to be paid in the local currency. Always know what this is and put money aside to pay it.

- Study the international currency rates published in the local papers before going on your trip so that you will know what amount of local currency you can expect for your dollars/won. Try not to change too much money in airports or hotels. They normally have the worst rates around.

- If you're going on your own without the assistance of an English-speaking tour guide, definitely consider buying an English-Whatever-language-you-need dictionary. Even if you can't speak the language, being able to point at the appropriate words normally helps.

- Particularly in light of the current world situation, try to blend into a crowd and not be offensive in your manner or dress. Many Westerners unintentionally offend people of Asian cultures by wearing "improper" clothing into temples and shrines. Know in advance what the customs are and dress accordingly. You will find that people are much nicer to you when you respect their culture and make an attempt, however small, to learn a few words of their language.

- Remember (as if you could forget) that many things are different in Asia (voltage for appliances, driving on a different side of the road, etc.) and you need to be prepared for these differences. Living in Korea, having many of the conveniences of home, tends to lull you into a false sense of security that quickly goes away when you're in a country where your hair dryer won't work and you think the toilet paper is actually recycled sand.

- Travel light because you undoubtedly will find many "treasures" to purchase during your journey. Many veteran travelers travel with an empty lightweight bag folded into their luggage just so they'll be able to get their purchases home safely.

- Know the customs laws of each country you plan to travel in and the Korean laws as well. You can check with the embassy of your destination for current information on their laws and with the Customs Office on Yongsan for the Korean rules.

- If you are flying Space-A, always be prepared to pay for a commercial ticket back to Korea if the Space-A flights suddenly are not available. Also, be prepared to pay for lodging if you are forced to stay in an area longer than anticipated.

TRAVEL MEDICINE CLINIC

The clinic staff provides a personal medical consultation to ensure an enjoyable and safe vacation for you. Call 736-3025 to schedule an appointment. Please bring shot records for each person traveling. It is best to schedule appointments 4-6 weeks before traveling to allow adequate time for any necessary vaccinations to take effect. The Travel Medicine Clinic is located in building 5447, near Gate 52 (Commissary Gate).

Healthy Travel Tips

No matter where your travels may take you, be sure to observe the following:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Eat only thoroughly cooked food or fruits and vegetables you have peeled yourself. Remember: boil it, cook it, peel it or forget it. Don't eat food purchased from street vendors.

- Drink only bottled or boiled water, or carbonated drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and ice cubes. Check to make sure that bottles for water are not being reused. Bottle caps should be new and unopened.

- Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of injury among travelers, walk and drive defensively. Avoid travel at night if possible and always use seat belts.

- Protect yourself from insects by remaining in well-screened areas, using repellents (applied sparingly at four-hour intervals), and wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants.

- Never eat undercooked ground beef and poultry, raw eggs, or unpasteurized dairy products. Raw shellfish is particularly dangerous to persons who have liver disease or compromised immune systems.

- Monkeys, dogs, cats, chicken and ducks can be a source of serious diseases such as rabies, plague and bird flu so avoid contact with animals whenever possible.

- To prevent fungal and parasitic infections, keep feet clean and dry, and do not go barefoot.

- Practice safe sex.

- Don't share needles with anyone.

Recommended Supplies and Equipment

Make sure you pack:

- A long-sleeved shirt and long pants to wear while outside whenever possible, to help prevent sunburn and illnesses carried by insects.

- Insect repellent containing DEET (diethylmethytlouamide), in 22% to 35% strength for adults and 6% to 10% for children, as well as a bed net impregnated

with the insecticide permethrin. (Bed nets can be purchased in camping or military supply stores.)

- Over the counter anti-diarrhea medicine, to take if necessary. Iodine tablets and portable water filters to purify water if bottled water is not available.
- Prescription medications: make sure you have enough to last during your trip, as well as a copy of the prescription(s).

EMERGENCY OR URGENT HEALTH CARE WHILE TRAVELING

TRICARE has contracted and partnered with International SOS, a worldwide company, to establish a network of quality healthcare providers and hospitals throughout the Western Pacific to assist with urgent and emergency medical and dental care for Active Duty Service Members (ADSM's). By using the ISOS network, ADSM's will not incur out-of-pocket expenses and there will be no claims to file. It is a cashless and claimless service. This service is available to ADSM's who are TDY, deployed or simply on leave in Pacific areas where a U.S. Military Treatment Facility is unavailable.

Active Duty family members enrolled in TRICARE Prime may use ISOS for emergency medical care only. ISOS can assist you in obtaining urgent medical or dental care but you will be required to pay for the services up-front and file a claim through the region you're enrolled to for reimbursement.

TRICARE Standard Active Duty family members as well as retirees and their family members are not eligible for this emergency travel benefit.

To utilize these services, call International SOS (ISOS) collect at 65-6-388-9277. When calling collect, it may be necessary to request an international operator. If you are in Singapore, call directly to 65-6-388-9277. If you are traveling within Korea, contact the international operator at (02) 7913-1110 and request to place a collect call to 65-6-388-9277.

For civilians and family members not eligible for ISOS, it is a good idea to purchase international or travel medical insurance before going abroad. If you already have international insurance, check with your current insurance provider to confirm coverage and procedures in case of emergency before departure.

EMERGENCY CARE DEFINITION

Care provided for sudden and unexpected onset of a medical or psychiatric condition or the acute exacerbation of a chronic condition that is threatening to life, limb or sight and requires immediate medical treatment.

- Seek care from the nearest medical facility.
- Dial the local number for ambulance service as provided by the American

Embassy, military unit, or other source.

- Have a local address and phone number available. Do not hang up the phone until directed to do so by the host nation operator.
- When emergency treatment or hospitalization in a local civilian hospital is received, contact International SOS as soon as possible.

URGENT CARE DEFINITION

Treatment for a medical or psychological condition that would cause undue discomfort to the patient or that may worsen if not treated within 24 hours.

If you need urgent care in Pacific locations, International SOS can provide several valuable services. By calling them before receiving care, you can:

- Find a qualified health care provider.
- Avoid paying up front costs.
- Avoid filing claims.
- Otherwise, expect to pay the host nation provider at the time of service.

Then file a claim with TRICARE CENTER upon return from travel.

For more information, please stop by the TRICARE Service Center, Building 7102 or call 736-8558/7238/7236.

WHERE TO GO

The following is a list of possible places to explore. Due to changing world conditions, always check with the embassy, USFK and www.asktheconsul.org to see if travel to your country of choice is recommended.

AUSTRALIA

The “land down under” is beginning to enjoy a real surge in popularity from travelers from Korea. There are several package tours on the market. You can easily obtain your visa from the Australian Embassy in the Kyobo Building downtown near the American Embassy. Qantas Airline and KAL have direct flights to Sydney and many other cities.

Sydney points of interest: Sydney Opera House; Harrys Cafe On Wheels, famous for its meat pies and hot dogs; the Taronga Zoo which you get to by taking a ferry ride; a cable car ride up a hill to one of the most spectacular views of Sydney Harbor; the Blue Mountains or just some relaxed shopping in the restored Victorian buildings or antique arcades that have become popular and unique shopping areas. Check out the Radisson Hotel Sydney, not only is it

centrally located but also offers military rates, free hors d'oeuvres and best of all, the Subway runs under the hotel. A subway pass is the way to go if you'd rather go it alone. A Circle pass is good for unlimited one day travel with stops at most of the famous Sydney sights. The Radisson Hotel is only a five minute walk from the Australian Naval Base, which you can enter as long as you have a military ID, and then you can walk on base straight down to the harbor.

If you are traveling on a loose itinerary try visiting a travel agency while in Sydney and check into their tours of the Gold Coast. They offer some wonderful specials for the Great Barrier Reef area. A tour might include travel to Cairns; a bus to Port Douglas, and trekking through an exotic rain forest. You can board a train for an incredible single track train ride around the mountains to the town of Kuranda, where there is a beautifully restored railway station, souvenir stands and for the brave at heart: bungee jumping. A trip to the Gold Coast would not be complete without a cruise out to the Great Barrier Reef where there is scuba diving, snorkeling, mini-submarine rides, helicopter rides and an underwater observatory. If you want to be pampered, try the exclusive resort on Haymen Island.

Some other treats to try during your Australian visit are the delicious sponge cakes with strawberries and cream, Vegemite, (Australian kids eat Vegemite like American kids eat Peanut Butter) and their Yummy Chocolate and 'sweets.' If this sounds too good to be true, call the Australian Embassy 02-2003-0100 or visit one of the travel services on-post to book a trip.

CAMBODIA

Siem Reap and the Temples of Angkor Wat are fast becoming a major destination. Korean Air has a direct flight into Seam Reap, which makes this exotic locale much easier to reach! Although the city is modernizing at a fast pace, this still may not be a trip to take children on. Healthcare is not easily accessible and there is a lot of walking through old stone ruins.

The temples date back to 800 AD and are mainly of Hindu origin with Buddhism influence in the later temples. Monks are walking around, incense is burning, people are praying, and children are selling native crafts. The land and culture surrounding the Angkor Wat Complex is equally as fascinating with rice paddies everywhere, traditional thatched roof housing (charming in a strange way, although many still have no electricity), people napping in hammocks on the roadside, skinny livestock, such as water buffalo, scattered around, and beautiful lotus ponds.

CHINA

Americans and other foreign visitors are touring China in increasing numbers in order to visit many of the wonderful ancient and historic sites this vast country has to offer. Some of the more popular destinations include: Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Guilin, Xian, and Hangzhou.

The DHL, Moyer Rec, the USO, and other Travel Services on or off post offer individual or group tours to many destinations in China for varying amounts of time and prices. These trips are excellent value for the money with the USO and travel services arranging all visas, tours of your choice, and excellent 4 or 5 star hotel accommodations. A flight from Incheon Airport to Beijing is about one and a half hours. Beijing has an endless list of places of interest but some include: the Great Wall, the Temple of Heaven, the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Olympic Village and Water Cube, pearl and jade markets, acrobatic shows and of course the pandas.

GUAM/SAIPAN

If you're looking for a tropical getaway, check out the islands of Guam or Saipan. Located off the coast of Japan in the Mariana Islands both destinations are just a 4 to 5 hour flight from Incheon International Airport. In addition to white sandy beaches and breathtaking views, Guam, a U.S. territory, is home to two military bases, where you can pick up discount tickets for local activities. There are 3 shopping malls and a Hard Rock Cafe. For a more tranquil setting consider Saipan. This U.S. Commonwealth is smaller and does not have the hustle and bustle of Guam. Both Guam and Saipan have a variety of luxury hotels and recreational activities. A family-friendly resort found on both islands is the Pacific Islands Club (PIC), www.pacificislandsclub.com. It is an all-inclusive resort/water park, with lots for children to do! You can book a trip online or go through one of the on-post travel agencies.

HONG KONG

Hong Kong is an amazing city, with skyscrapers jutting out of the surrounding mountains and the bustling harbor down below. Truly a shopper's paradise, since imported goods enter Hong Kong duty free. Shop carefully, compare prices and quality. Always deal with reputable dealers. Look for the Hong Kong Tourist Association membership sticker, as it normally indicates an established merchant with a good reputation.

The Fleet Arcade shopping area is at Fenwick Pier, 1 Lung King St. Wan Chai. It is located on the Hong Kong island side of the city and can be easily reached

from the Admiralty Subway Stop. The U.S. Navy Fleet Post Office (FPO) is located on the second floor of the Fleet Arcade. The FPO is a full-service U.S. Post Office. A commercial packaging facility is located next to the FPO; it makes mailing home your purchases very convenient! The hours of operation are Monday-Friday 10am to 4pm and 10am to 6pm when U.S. ships are in port. The FPO is closed on holidays and weekends. To use FPO services, identification is required. Payment is in U.S. dollars or personal check; no credit cards.

Other points of interest include Bird Street, where literally thousands of birds are available for purchase; the Star Ferry, for a leisurely ride across the harbor; the tram up Victoria Peak, where you get a spectacular view of Hong Kong; Ocean Park, the largest oceanarium in the world; and a trip to Aberdeen fishing village.

Upon arrival at the Hong Kong airport, pick up one of the free tourist travel kits available in the baggage claim area. The kit contains an excellent map and a good little guide book. The Hong Kong subway can get you just about anywhere you want to go. Buy a tourist pass; it's cheaper and you won't have to wait in the long lines to pay for a ticket each time.

INDIA

When you consider India as a possible destination, you must take many factors into account. Obviously, there is a great deal to see in this ancient country, but many experienced travelers said they were depressed by the extreme poverty and social conditions in this overpopulated land. India's leaders are well aware of this social perception and are working hard to not only to solve their country's problems, but also to improve their public relations image.

For this reason, now may be the cheapest time ever to visit India if you have the desire. Special promotions are underway and the government is apparently going all out to see that tourists come away with a favorable impression. For information on possible tour packages contact the Indian Embassy.

JAPAN

Traveling to Japan from Korea is relatively inexpensive and easy if you plan your trip carefully. There are several ways of going to Japan: commercial airlines, AMC flights from Osan, and by ferry from Busan. Try to use the U.S. military facilities in Japan (particularly the New Sanno in Tokyo) as much as possible because Japan is the most expensive country in the world. The New Sanno Hotel has an extremely high occupancy rate, so make your reservations well in advance.

If you are using commercial transportation to reach Japan, consider buying

a Japan Rail Pass while you are still in Seoul; they aren't available inside Japan. These passes allow unlimited travel on trains throughout the country and are a real bargain. You can purchase them from Global Travel near City Hall or other agencies in Seoul. There is so much to see and do in Japan that you will want maximum flexibility in getting around. Also buy a tourist subway pass (you can get them at the New Sanno) for easy movement in Tokyo.

Shopping in Japan can be a VERY expensive experience if you shop on the Japanese economy. Many Americans have found they get better value by shopping in the arcade at the New Sanno or at the bases located throughout Japan. The Japanese Embassy can be reached at 02-733-5626.

TOKYO - is one of the largest cities in the world. Tokyo is the center for political, economic, and cultural activities in Japan. Attractions in Tokyo include:

- The New Sanno U.S. military facility DSN: 229-8111 for reservations.
- The Imperial Palace is surrounded by a series of picturesque moats.
- The Marunouchi section is the hub of Tokyo's commercial activities.
- The Diet building, the seat of Japanese government
- Ginza and Kihombashi are two of the busiest and most fashionable areas boasting many of the top ranking stores, restaurants and theaters.
- The Meiji Shrine with the Memorial Picture Gallery, also various sports facilities
- Tokyo Tower is one of the world's highest and offers an excellent view of Tokyo.
- Ueno Park is filled with beautiful scenery, museums and a zoo.
- Tokyo National Museum, a MUST see whose walls encase some of the oldest relics in the world.

OUT-OF-TOKYO EXCURSIONS

Kamakura - The seat of a feudal government from 1192-1333 is a lovely seaside resort southwest of Tokyo and easily reached by frequent electric rail service. This ancient capital city is noted for its Daibutsu or Great Buddha, 42.2 feet tall.

Hakone - Famous for its mountain scenery, hot springs and many historic spots which include Lake Ashi (Lake Hakone), noted for its splendid reflections of Mt. Fuji; Hakone Shrine, said to have been founded in 757 A.D.; Owakudani and Kowakidani Valleys, where sulfurous fumes rise from crevices on the mountain side; and Mt. Koma, which commands a lovely view of surrounding scenery.

Disneyland and Disney Sea - On the shores of Tokyo Bay, 7 miles from the center of Tokyo, the \$660 million entertainment complex of Disneyland dominates the landscape. Tokyo's Disneyland is the largest of the Disney complexes covering 110 acres. Disney Sea is unique to Japan and is based on the 7 seas.

Kyoto - This ancient city, which was deliberately spared damage during World War II because of its cultural significance, is like a huge museum. There are too many attractions to detail here, but some of the most important are:

- **Nijo Castle** - Built in 1603 by Leyasu, the first Shogun, as his Kyoto residence. Surrounded by double moats, the castle boasts numerous beautiful structures and gardens. Ninomar-u Palace represents typical early 17th century Japanese architecture. An interesting feature of the palace is a wooden corridor so called the “nightingale floor.” Designed to warn off possible intruders, it squeaks whenever anyone walks on it.

- **Kiyomizu Temple** - This 355-year-old wooden temple is set in a traditional landscape and is constructed halfway up the side of a beautiful hill.

- **Ginkatuji** - The silver pavilion temple was built by Yoshimasa Ashikaga in 1482 as a retirement home. It has beautiful gardens and smaller surrounding temples.

- **Kinkakuji** - The Temple of the Golden Pavilion is one of the most famous sites in Kyoto and probably one of the most photogenic spots in all of Japan.

Allow several days for Kyoto if you enjoy history!

Nara - The national capital of Japan during the 8th century, Nara is noted as the birthplace of Japanese art and literature. It is easily accessible by train from Kyoto and it is possible to stay in one hotel (possibly in Osaka, which is in the middle) and see both areas if you have a rail pass. Like Kyoto, Nara was spared as much destruction as possible in World War II because of its cultural heritage. Some of the most important attractions are:

- **Akishino** - Temple founded in 780 A.D. by Emperor Konin Kammu.

- **Hokkiji** - Among other attractions, there is a three story pagoda dating from 685 and is a fine example of 7th century Japanese architecture.

- **Horyuji** - The oldest and largest existing temple in Japan, founded in 607 AD. It is considered to be the cradle of Japanese art and culture. This is A MUST SEE if you go to Nara.

OKINAWA - One of the four Ryukyu Islands, Okinawa is an easy destination for anyone wanting to use Space-A from Osan to Kadena. Call the Osan AMC terminal for information. (HINT: You will find the AMC terminal personnel much more helpful if you call at a time when they are not processing a flight. Ask when you call if this is the case and if so, when could you call back.) The climate of Okinawa is subtropical and an interesting change from Seoul. Shopping for local crafts and fine china is excellent. Be aware of the fact that Japanese taxis are expensive. Use base transportation whenever possible to get close to your destination and then hike until you have too many packages to carry around.

The most logical, and cheapest, place to stay is Kadena Airbase, which has 24-hour billeting. Call Autovon 630-1110 to reach the operator. There is also occasionally Navy BOQ space available. You can check with the Navy Billeting office in Building 4198 before 4pm.

MACAU

This tiny country on the tip of China is often a destination for tourists while they are in Hong Kong. Macau is easily accessible from Hong Kong by ferry or hydrofoil. The Portuguese heritage of Macau gives it its own special flavor. Go to Macau, if for nothing else, to eat and drink the good, inexpensive wines. Gambling is also a big attraction here and huge casinos line the shore. Some of these casinos boast fabulous restaurants. Excellent, inexpensive places to eat are also easily found. For additional information, visit the Macau Government Tourist Office website: www.macaotourism.gov.mo. If you are in Hong Kong, call the Macau tourist bureau at 05-408-180.

MALAYSIA

Malaysian Airlines, working in conjunction with the country's massive "Visit Malaysia" campaign, have made this country an inexpensive and marvelous place to visit. The Malaysians are a truly friendly people, anxious to please and eager to visit with foreigners. English is the dominant language here making it generally easy to communicate with everyone from the cab drivers to the shop keepers. Kuala Lumpur, the capital, contains many interesting attractions, including the Muzium Negara, the national museum which provides a fascinating insight into the culture and history of Malaysia. There are also beautiful, clean beaches throughout the country and there are now special package tours for golfers interested in playing on the lush Malaysian courses. Eating and shopping is inexpensive with the best buy possibly being the beautiful Selangor pewter, produced just outside Kuala Lumpur. www.tourism.gov.my

NEPAL/TIBET

These ancient countries in North-central Asia are still considered to be "exotic" destinations and are visited by few of the personnel stationed in Korea. Those who have gone come back with varying reports. Some cite the primitive living and traveling conditions while others talk about the fascinating cultures. Neither country has an embassy in Seoul, so you will have to do your own research at the Yongsan library or find a good travel agent. Make sure any plans/itineraries are confirmed in writing before departure unless you are an Indiana Jones type of adventurer.

NEW ZEALAND

This wonderfully scenic country is very affordable now that you live in Korea.

Make sure your tour incorporates both the North and South Islands since they are both “must sees.” Check out trips offered at the travel agencies or call the New Zealand Embassy at 730-7794.

SINGAPORE

This small island country off the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula is rapidly developing a reputation as the shopping destination in Asia. In addition to extensive duty-free shopping there are also some interesting things to see and do. These include:

The Singapore Zoo - This is possibly one of the finest zoos in the world. Developed on an “open” concept, the zoo has built a series of “natural” barriers so you see the animals much as you would if they were in the wild. They also offer other attractions such as “High Tea” with the orangutans, a stroll with a group of “Roadrunners” and a photo session with boa constrictors. If you are traveling with children or are an animal lover, the zoo is “the” attraction in Singapore

Empress Place, a marvelous museum and shopping complex in the old city; the Merlion, the symbol of Singapore, possibly best viewed on a harbor cruise.

Botanical Gardens, a truly beautiful place filled with thousands of rare tropical plants. The separate orchid garden is spectacular.

Cruises in Singapore, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines offer very affordable cruise options, embarking from Singapore for many travel destinations throughout Asia.

TAIPEI, TAIWAN

One of the closest destinations from Korea, many people choose to tour Taiwan. Taipei is Taiwan’s largest city and also its capital. Costs have increased dramatically in recent years, but you can still get a fairly good tour package from Seoul. With recent politics concerning Taiwan’s desire to become independent of China and China’s reluctance to let go, you really need to check before booking a trip.

If you are able to go, some of the things to see include: the National Palace Museum, Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial, Taipei City, Taipei 101 - this marvel ranked as the world’s tallest building (from its opening in 2004 until 2010), Wulai - a mountain village famous for the “commercialized” aboriginal village and waterfall, and Taroka Gorge.

Shopping - Although new department stores are popping up all the time, Taipei’s best shopping areas are still the small stores, bazaars, arcades and curio markets. Popular items from Taiwan are painting reproductions, pottery with its traditional-styled design, other ceramic wares, furniture, jewelry made

of coral and other semi-precious stones, marble products from the quarries in Hualien, and products made of Taiwan jade. Remember that the quality of this jade does not equal that of genuine antique jade. Also, consider dusty temple carvings, hand puppets, old coins, expensive porcelains, cloisonné and rosewood furniture. During your shopping adventures be sure and visit a Taiwan Tea House.

THAILAND

Thailand is an attractive tourist destination and has long been a favorite vacation destination of Americans. With its 800 year old history, vast cultural attractions, exotic beaches, islands and national parks Thailand should have something for everyone. Not only are the Thai people very friendly and hospitable but the country also offers an abundance of amenities from excellent food to inexpensive quality accommodation, making it an ideal vacation spot for military families.

Great family package tours are offered by the many travel services available on/off post. Booking in advance is very easy and reasonably priced. Many great deals can be found on the internet as well as with the travel companies in and around Seoul, check out various options and do some research if you plan to go it alone.

Major tourism destinations in Thailand include:

Bangkok - There is nothing quite like Bangkok! New buildings reach for the sky around the corner from ancient temples, many of which are home to enormous images of Buddha inlaid with gold and mother of pearl. Everything about the city seems exotic, especially the food.

Points of interest include:

Floating Markets demonstrate the art of buying and selling, as well as cooking and eating in small paddle boats on the canal.

Mae Sa Elephant Camp, located near the Floating Markets in Bangkok. A definite must for kids of all ages.

The Grand Palace and Wat Po (The temple of the reclining Buddha with inlaid mother of pearl soles) are a stone's throw from one another. Along with beautiful architecture, they house some of the most revered and richly decorated images of Buddha.

The National Museum has 26 different buildings and traces Thai History from 5600 BC to present day.

Thieves Market is a unique place to buy almost any type of exotic plant.

Suan Lum Night Bazaar sells everything from silk fabric, art and wooden items to lanterns.

Pattaya - is only about 100 miles outside of Bangkok and is one of the most popular beach resorts, offering all the amenities you might desire, from first rate affordable lodging and restaurants to an assortment of water sports.

Chiang Mai - is a very popular destination for families with children. While Bangkok is a busy metropolis with about 80 million people, Chiang Mai is just the opposite. Its reasonable cost and abundance of activities geared to the family makes for a very relaxed and enjoyable vacation. The Chiang Mai cultural center has evening dinner shows geared to family entertainment. A khantoke and dance show is performed most nights with audience participation expected.

Phuket - being Thailand's largest island it is of course famous for its beaches. There are many beaches to choose from on the island but some are better than others (do some research before hand). Patong seems to be the most famous but other popular beaches include Karon and Kata. There are many water sport activities, and if you'd like some other water wonders check out the two beautiful waterfalls Tong Sai and Bang Pai.

Korat - if it's the Khmer culture you are after then head about 80 miles north of Bangkok, to Korat where you will find several stunning examples of 12th century architecture. A must see is nearby Phimai, which is an amazing Khmer complex constructed on a man-made river islet. It is breathtaking in its beauty and from a distance, oddly futuristic to the eye. Its sanctuary tower is home to stunning Khmer artistry and the surrounding ornate buildings of the complex architecture. The best buys in Thailand historically have been silk, rubies and star sapphires. For more information: www.tourismthailand.org. Another great website is www.nancychandler.net which contains "Nancy Chandler's map of Bangkok" that is most helpful.

VIETNAM

Travel services on-post and at the USO (located next to Camp Kim) offer trips to cities throughout Vietnam. There are many places to see from Hanoi in the North, to Saigon in the South of the country.

Hanoi - A flight from Incheon Airport to the northernmost city of Hanoi is only about a 5 hour trip and certainly worth taking. Hanoi is sure to be a hit with all members of your family. Some places of interest in and around the city of Hanoi are:

Hoa Lo Prison - the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" where John McCain and other U.S. prisoners were held captive.

Old Quarter - with over a thousand years of history this area of the city remains one of Vietnams most lively and unusual places. Visitors can explore the

fascinating maze of back streets where you can buy anything from gravestones to silk pajamas. Street vendors sell some unusual eats and treats to tantalize the taste buds, as well as an endless supply of wares such as: wool clothes, cosmetics, gold and silver jewelry, silk cloths and herbal medicines.

Thang Long Water Puppet Theater - Believed to date back almost a thousand years, *roi nuoc* or water puppetry is one of the most authentic expressions of Vietnamese culture. Performances were once held in villages using rivers, lakes or rice fields. Today they are staged in huge water filled tanks in theatres. Hiding behind the stage, the puppeteers stand waist deep in water and maneuver their wooden puppets to the music of a traditional Vietnamese orchestra.

Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum - excavations at Hanoi Citadel, floating villages, pagodas, military history museums, art museums, temples, markets and a myriad of other tourist venues are scattered in and around this historical city.

Halong Bay - some tours offer a cruise aboard one of the many tourist junk boats that sail the Halong Bay. The bay is a 3 hour drive from Hanoi, but is a must see for everyone. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site with many magnificent pinnacles, caves and grottos that have been carved by selective erosion out of the limestone/dolomite outcrops that surround the bay. Visit some of the many caves and grottos or simply enjoy swimming in the emerald warm waters of this breathtaking area. Along with the tourist junks, some lovely, traditionally made junks still sail the bay. Made from rough cotton and hand-sewn, the fan-shaped sails of the traditional junks are dipped in vegetable dye for protection and give them a unique dark ochre color. Legend has it that the many pinnacles, caves and grottos were created by a gigantic dragon (*halong*-means descending dragon) that jumped into the bay thrashing its huge tail. In honor of this legendary beast many brightly painted Dragon Boats also roam the waters.

Saigon - This vibrant southern metropolis seems to be in sharp contrast to the northern area of Hanoi. Saigon teems with energy, activity and motion and everywhere you look seems to be the meeting of traditional and modern life. The emerging and modern skylines stand cheek to jowl with traditional temples and colonial buildings. Outside on streets young people zip around on motorcycles and chat on cell phones, while inside the quiet temple courtyards, the older more traditional people worship and pray amidst a cloud of incense. Visit the Unification Palace, formerly the Independence Palace of the South Vietnamese president that was famously stormed by tanks in 1975 and signified the fall of South Vietnam. Visit the bustling colorful markets and tour the many temples and museums of Saigon. For tour destinations and prices visit one of the travel service offices or visit www.vietnamtourism.com the travel service offices or visit www.vietnamtourism.com

TRAVEL SERVICES

USO TOURS

Location: USO at Camp Kim, Building 1224

Telephone: 724-7003/3301

Hours of Operation: M-F 8am-5pm, Sat 8am-5pm

US Airline Alliance (Travel Packages):

Location: Dragon Hill Lodge, Building 4050

Telephone: 738-2222 ext 6800

Hours of Operation: M-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun and holidays 10am-2pm

US Airline Alliance (Travel Packages):

Location: Moyer CAC, 2nd floor

Telephone: 723-8790/2259, 723-8549/7834

Hours of Operation: M-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun and Holidays 10am-2pm

Delta Airlines	754-1921
Northwest Airlines	732-1700
United Airlines	757-1691
American Airlines	734-8820

AIRLINES

The US Airline Alliance is the contracted on post travel agency for official and leisure travel, offering a full range of travel products. For official travel and emergency leave contact the passenger travel office 725-6173 located on the second floor of the Moyer Center (Bldg. 2259) on Main Post. Numbers for the airlines in this office are:

Delta/Korean Air	723-8549
Northwest/Asiana	723-7834
United Airlines	723-8790

CAMPS, POSTS AND INSTALLATIONS IN KOREA

As there are over 100 places in Korea where service members are stationed this is by no means a complete listing. For more information on what's available at the various locations visit www.mwrkorea.com

CARROLL, CAMP See *Daegu, USAG*

CASEY, USAG

Directions

Subway: Take Line 1 north, Soyosan direction. Get off at Bosan Station number 104 (not to be confused with Busan). USAG-Casey main gate is about 3 blocks from the train station. Alternatively, take Line 4 (Blue) from Sinyongsan Station 429 (close to Gate 14) heading north in the direction of Danggogae. Change to Line 1 (Purple) at Chang-dong (412), in the direction of Soyosan and exit at Bosan Station (104).

Driving: Drive out of Gate 6 (Commissary Gate) and take a right. Get into the left hand lane and go over the Banpo Bridge staying in the left lane. At the light at the end of the bridge take a left onto the Olympic Expressway HWY 88. Continue to HWY 100 towards GURI. Stay on this highway (going through two toll booths) until you get to exit 14, Uijeonbu. Follow the ramp signs and make sure to stay under the Uijeonbu exit. Stay straight on this road until you reach a major fork in the road, then just follow traffic to the right. Continue thru Uijeonbu city making no sharp turns left or right! Once you come to a tall building with mirrored outside walls and a sign that says YANGJU with a big screen TV, take a right at the light onto MSR 3. Take this road all the way to USAG-Casey which will be on your right hand side.

CHINHAE NAVY BASE

Chinhae is on the southern tip of the Korean peninsula and is the site of the only U.S. Navy base in Korea as well as the headquarters for the Korean Navy. For more information see Travel - Southeast and Coastal Locations.

COINER, CAMP *Located adjacent to USAG-Yongsan.*

DAEGU (USAG)

Daegu is one of the largest cities in Korea and home to Camp Carroll, Camp Henry and Camp Walker. Major tourist attractions include Mt. Biseulsan

Provincial Park and Mt. Palgongsan Provincial Park. The azalea and purple Eulalie blossoms of Mt. Biseulsan Park offer exquisite views during the spring and fall months. Other nearby attractions include: Daegu National Museum, Donghwasu Temple and the Daegu Medicine Market.

Lodging

Camp Walker Lodge

Call DSN 764-5536
DSN Fax 764-5535
From the U.S. 011-82-54-475-6213
Fax from the U.S. 011-82-53-470-5535

Camp Carroll Lodge

Call DSN 765-7722
DSN Fax: 765-8058
From the U.S. 011-82-54-970-7722
Fax from the U.S. 011-82-54-970-8058

Golf

Camp Walker: Driving range open daily, Hours 0530-1900, 764-4601

Bowling

Walker Bowling Center: Sun-Thurs 1130-2230, Fri-Sat 1130-0100, 764-4334
Carroll Bowling Center: Mon-Thurs 1100-1300 and 1600-2230, Fri 1100-1300 and 1600-0100, Sat 1500-0100, Sun 1500-2230, 765-8409

Post Clubs

Camp Walker Evergreen, 764-4060
Hilltop, 764-4985
Camp Henry Henry's Place, 768-7300
Camp Carroll Hideaway Club, 765-8574

Off Post Attractions

DDaegu National Museum was built to preserve and exhibit the unique cultural heritage of Daegu and Gyeongsangbuk-do province, featuring an Archeology Gallery containing relics from the Neolithic Era to Korea's Three Kingdom's period; an Art History Gallery focused on the Buddhist culture of Daegu; and the Traditional Folk Life Gallery, where visitors can see traditional Korean houses. 82-53-1330

Directions: At Daegu Train Station, take Bus No.349 or No.524.

At Daegu Express Bus Terminal, take Bus No. 514 or No. 814.

Get off at Daegu National Museum

Hours: Mar-Oct: 9am to 6pm (7pm on Sat, Sun, Holidays), Nov-Feb: 9am to 5pm Closed Jan 1, every Monday.

Admission: Adult W400, Ages 19-24 W200, Under 18 and Over 65 are free. The first Sunday of the month admission is free for all.

EAGLE, CAMP See *USAG-Humphreys*.

HANNAM VILLAGE Located in Seoul, close to USAG-Yongsan. See *Housing in A to Z*.

HENRY, CAMP See *USAG-Daegu*.

HOVEY, CAMP See *USAG-Red Cloud/Area I*.

HUMPHREYS (USAG)

The facilities are undergoing vast changes to improve accommodations and services for U.S. military members and their families. Humphreys offers a unique range of activities: paintball, laser tag and swimming at the installation Splish 'N' Splash Water Park.

Lodging

Army Lodging

Phone 011-82-31-690-7355

DSN (315) 753-7355

Fax 011-82-31-690-8389

Billeting Office: Bldg T247, 753-7355

Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm, Sat 8am-noon

Bowling

Humphreys Bowling Center, Tue-Thu 4-10pm, Fri-Sat 11-1am, Sun 11am-10pm, 753-5722

Long Shot Bowling Center, Mon 5-10pm, Thu 3-10pm, Fri 5-10pm, Sat Sun 3-10pm, 721-3336

Driving Range

Hours of operation: Tue-Sun 11am-10pm, 754-6291

Post Clubs

USAG - Humphreys: Tommy D's, 753-7532

Alaska Mining Co, 753-3101

Macgregor's Market, 753-7532

Camp Eagle: Eagle's Nest, 721-2277

Post Attractions

Laser Tag is a new attraction at Humphreys. The facility is located in Building

1044 adjacent to Soldiers Park. Hours: Wed-Sun 11 am-7pm, Sat Sun 11am-2pm, 753-3013

Splish 'N' Splash water park is located on post close to the bowling center and features waterslides and plenty of space to swim. The park opens in May, seven days a week from 11am-9pm.

Directions

Subway: Take Line 1(Purple) south in the Cheonan direction, get off at the Pyeongtaek station (P164). Take a taxi or Bus 20 to the main gate.

Driving: Turn right out of the Commissary Gate 6, move to the left to go over the Banpo Bridge. Turn Left at light on to Highway 88 (Olympic Highway). Stay right, Exit to Highway 1 (you need to merge to the left so you take the soft curve NOT the hard right). Take Highway 1 to Exit 40. After toll booth, Turn left onto #38 (you will drive through many stoplights) Exit on# 45 direction Paensong / Asan. Stay to the right through one stop light take right at 'Y' intersection (there is a sign with Camp Humphreys) at next light turn right (T intersection). Follow this road into Camp Humphreys Main Gate.

ALTERNATE DRIVING ROUTE (Less traffic, a few more miles, can be faster in high traffic, more tolls) Turn right out of Commissary Gate 6, move to left to go over or under the Banpo Bridge. Continue through all the stop lights toward Seoul Arts Center; go through tunnel under Seoul Arts Center. There will be a toll booth at the end of the tunnel. Stay on this road and it will turn into 309. Continue on 309 until it turns into Highway 17. Exit on to Highway 17 in the direction of Pyeongtaek. Take Highway 17 to the end. Exit onto #38 direction Pyeongtaek/Anseong. Follow #38 to #45. Exit to #45 direction Paensong /Asan. Stay to the right through one stop light, stay to the right at the Y intersection (sign for Camp Humphreys). Turn right at next light (T intersection). Follow this road into Camp Humphreys Main Gate.

JACKSON, CAMP See *USAG-Red Cloud/Area I*.

K-16

Also known as Seoul Air Base, this small post is located near the city of Songnam, across the Han River just outside of Seoul. Home of the K-16 Community Activities Center (Bldg #302): DSN 741-6030.

Arts and Crafts Center – Hours: Wed-Mon: 1000-1900. DSN 741-6923

Bowling Center – Hours: Mon-Wed: 1700-2200, Fri-Sat: 1000-2300, Sun: 1600-2200. DSN741-6240

Fitness Center – Hours: Mon-Fri: 0600-2130, Sat-Sun & Holidays: 0800-2100. DSN 741-6328.

Landing Zone Club – Hours: Tue-Thu: 1700-2400, Fri-Sat: 1700-0100.
DSN: 741-6380.

Library – Hours : Tue-Fri: 1100-2000, Sat-Sun: 1100-1900. DSN: 741-6694

LONG, CAMP See *USAG-Humphreys*

OSAN AIR BASE

This Air Force Base is approximately 35 miles south of Seoul. The average travel time from Yongsan is about an hour one way depending on traffic conditions (on certain days, 3 hours is not unheard of). An alternative to driving is the bus out of Moyer CAC. Return tickets sell out quickly, so be prepared to catch a later bus if necessary. Maps, routes and schedules are available in Moyer Community Activities Center. A trip to Osan can be a wonderful day out. Shopping in the surrounding local community, Song-tan, can be cheaper for certain items such as sports apparel, purses and tailored suits. There are several restaurants scattered throughout the Air Base, including Chili's, Burger King and Captain D's. Osan has a Base Exchange (BX) that carries a wide selection of merchandise which is sometimes different from Yongsan. The Commissary at Osan also carries some different products from those sold in Yongsan. There are many places to shop and eat on the base and local economy. AAFES taxi stands are conveniently located at all the popular restaurants and gates.

Directions

Subway: Take Line 1 (Purple) south in the Cheonan direction, get off at the Songtan station (P161), which is a few blocks from the main gate or about a W2,000 taxi ride. Note: Make sure the subway train you board goes as far as Songtan Station! Some trains stop in the service yards where the cleaning crew board and start to work and the drivers change shifts, before the train heads back the way you came....

Driving: Drive out of Gate 6 (Commissary Gate) and take a right. Get into the left hand lane and go over the Banpo Bridge; stay in the left lane. At the light at the end of the bridge take a left onto the Olympic Expressway HWY 88. Stay to the right and take the Route 1 South exit, this is a toll road. Stay to the LEFT as the road will split, go straight ahead in the center lanes. Continue straight until you get to exit 42. After the toll booth continue straight until you see a tire shop (on your right); this will be at a light. Take a LEFT. Drive straight ahead until you see a sign for OSAN AIR BASE where you will take a right up onto an overpass. This road takes you directly to the gate; if that gate is closed, turn around and go back to your first RIGHT and follow that to the alternate gate.

RED CLOUD (USAG)/AREA I

The northern region of South Korea is flanked by sea and mountains. The land is full of natural attractions, including botanical gardens, beaches, rafting and skiing opportunities. Area I comprises the area north of Seoul up to the DMZ. There are over 40 Army posts in this area. USAG-Red Cloud is located in Uijeongbu. For upcoming outdoor adventures, contact the USO or BOSS representative.

Lodging

USAG-Casey Army Lodging
Phone: 011-82-31-8694247
DSN: 315-730-4247
Fax: 011-82-31-8694247

Post Clubs

USAG-Casey:	Gateway Club, 730-3400 Redwood Steak House, 730-2195 Warrior's Club, 730-2195
Camp Castle:	Warrior's Club, 730-3400
Camp Hovey:	Iron Triangle, 730-5167
USAG-Red Cloud:	CG's Mess, 732-8797 Mitchell's, 732-8189
Camp Stanley:	Reggie's, 732-5485

Golf

USAG-Casey Indianhead Golf Course, Tee times are 8am to 4pm, Restaurant Hours are 6am to 8pm, 730-4885

USAG-Red Cloud Golf Course, Winter Hours are 8am-5pm, Summer hours are M-F 7am to dusk, Sat-Sun/Holidays 5:30am to dusk, 732-6843

Bowling

USAG-Casey: Orion's, Sun-Thu 11am-11pm, Fri-Sat 11am-noon, 730-457

Camp Hovey: Mon, Wed, Thu 4-10pm, Fri 5pm-midnight, Sat 1-11pm, Sun 1-10pm, 730-5167

USAG-Red Cloud: Sun-Thu 11am-11pm, Fri-Sat 11am-midnight, 732-6930

Camp Stanley: Sun-Thu 11am-10pm, Fri-Sat 11am-11pm, 732-5370

Directions

Driving: From Gate 6 (Commissary Gate) turn right and move toward the center lane to cross the Banpo Bridge. At the traffic light at the end of the bridge turn left to merge onto the Olympic Expressway (Hwy 88). Stay on 88 and follow the signs for the 100 Expressway. There are two exits off Hwy 88; take the second exit in the direction of Guri. There are two toll booths along this route, expect to pay a total of about 2400won. Look for the Uijeongbu exit about 300 meters after passing through the second of two tunnels. Stay in the left lanes

of the exit ramp and merge into city traffic, working your way over to the left lane. Follow the signs for Route 39 to a major intersection with two left turn lanes, and turn left at the light. Continue to follow Route 39 signs through one stoplight intersection and a major rock-drop. At the next light, a T intersection near a very large highway overpass, follow the left turn lane. Take the first right turn, just prior to the underpass support, onto the entrance ramp to merge onto Route 39. Stay on this road as it becomes an overpass. The PX gate of Camp Red Cloud will be on your left. A left turn is not allowed at the traffic light so drive to the next light and make a U-turn. Drive back to the main gate and take a right at the light.

STANLEY, CAMP

See *USAG-Red Cloud/Area I* for more information.

Directions

Driving: Drive out of Gate 6 (Commissary Gate) and take a right. Get into the left hand lane and go over the Banpo Bridge staying in the left lane. At the light at the end of the bridge take a left onto the Olympic Expressway HWY 88. Continue to HWY 100 towards GURI. Stay on this highway through the first toll booth, at the second toll booth area get all the way to the right and exit at BYOLLAE and follow it off. Stay straight on this road until you come to a “T” intersection/light, make a LEFT and follow the signs; Camp Stanley will be on your left.

SUWON AIR BASE

This small air base is located 17 miles north of Osan Air Base and serves primarily as a Republic of Korea Air Base.

WALKER, CAMP See *Daegu*

YONGSAN (USAG)

Yongsan Garrison is located in the heart of Seoul, just north of the Han River, and adjacent to Itaewon. Despite its location in the capital city of over 11 million people, Yongsan is an oasis of calm seeming more like a city suburb than part of the city.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SELECTED RESOURCES

There are countless books available on Korea, its culture, language, and tourist sites. The following is just a small listing of the sources available. Most of these titles are available on-line or at the PX.

- Breen, Michael. *The Koreans: Who They Are, What They Want, Where Their Future Lies*. Saint Martins Press. 1999.
- Crane, Paul. S. *Korean Patterns: Published by the Royal Asiatic Society*. 1967, 1978 Available only through the internet.
- Fehrenbach, T.R. and Gordon Sullivan: *This Kind of War: The Classic Korean War*
- Hur, Sonja B. and Ben S. Hur. *Culture Shock Korea: Cavendish Publishing*. 2009.
- Seoul Selection Guides: Seoul. Oct 2009. Full of tips and guidance on taking taxis, subways and buses. www.seoulselection.com
- King, Ross and Jaehoon Yeon: *Elementary Korean*. Tuttle Co., 2009.
- Kyoung-Mi Kim and Rob Whyte. *Living in South Korea*, Pro Lingua Associates. 2006.
- Korean Information Center. *Korean Art Guide*. Seoul, 2002.
- Le Bas, Tom. *Insight Guide Korea*. Apa Publishing, UK, Ltd. 2007
- Lonely Planet Guide to Seoul.
- Lonely Planet Guide to Korea.
- Lonely Planet Korean Words and Phrases.
- Moon Living Abroad in South Korea. Avalon Travel Publishing 2009.
- Nilsen, Robert. *Moon: South Korea*, 4th Ed. Avalon Travel Publishing 2009.
- Saccone, Richard. *Having a Great Tour, the G.I. Guide to Korea*. Weatherhill. 1998.
- The Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism. *Guide to Korean Buddhist Temples*.
- Where to buy fuel. USFK PAO pamphlet #5. Helpful in finding places to get subsidized fuel. Yi, O-Nyong.
- Lee, O-Young. *Things Korean*. Tuttle Publishing. 1999.

INDEX

A

A3 Visa	55
Acronyms	60
Adult Education	61
Air Pollution	61
American Forces Spouses Club (AFSC)	13, 72
American Red Cross	62
American Women's Club (AWC)	73
Apgujeong	155
Army Community Service	63
Arts & Crafts	65
Australia	200
Automobile	37, 47

B

Banking	66
Barber Shops	67
Beauty	67
Black Market	68
BOSS	68
Bowling	68
Buses	131

C

Cambodia	201
Carpets	69, 144
Carroll, Camp	212
Casey, USAG	212
Cell Phones	69
Cheonggyecheon Stream	178
Children's Grand Park	183
Child Youth And School Services	58, 70
China	202
Chinhae	193
Chosun Gift Shop	15, 71

Christmas Trees	71
COEX Mall	156
Coiner, Camp	212
Commissary	74
Curtains	74
Customs	75
D	
Daegu, USAG	212
D.B.I.D.S.	55
Delivery	76
Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)	189
Dental	76
Dog Park	78
Dongdaemun	147, 151
Dragon Hill Lodge	78, 162
Driver's License	38, 57, 78
E	
Eagle, Camp	214
Embassy	80
Employment	38, 81
Everland	184
Express Bus Terminal	83, 147, 151
F	
Fitness Centers	83
Flowers and Plants	146
Furniture Store	158
Furniture Support	85
G	
Gas Grills	86
Gasoline	85
Golf	86
Guam/Saipan	202

H

Hanbok	148
Hannam Village	214
Henry, Camp	214
Homebirths	102
Homeschooling	87
Hongdo Island	194
Hong Kong	202
Hotels	88
Household Goods	45
Household Goods (JFTR) Weight Allowance	89
Household Help	89
Housing	39, 90
Hovey, Camp	214
Humphreys, USAG	214

I

Immunizations	40, 94
Incheon	191
Incheon International Airport	51
India	203
Insadong	142
Insurance	40, 95
Internet	95
Itaewon	153

J

Jackson, Camp	215
Japan	203
Jeju Island	194

K

K-16	215
Korean Flag	96
Korean Folk Village	193
Korean Language Classes	97

L

Laundry Facilities	98
Legal Assistance Office	98
Library	99
Long, Camp	216
Lotte World	185

M

Macau	206
Mail	40
Main Post Club (R&R Bar & Grille)	163
Malaysia	206
Maternity Clothing	159
Medical Services	100
Military Police	99
Mosquitoes	41
Movie Theater	104
Moyer Community Activities Center	105
Mt. Sorak	191
Myeong-Dong	155

N

Namdaemun	147, 152
Namsangol Traditional Folk Village	179
Namsan Park	185
National Museum Of Korea	179
Navy Club	164
Nepal/Tibet	206
Newspapers	106
New Zealand	206
Noncombatant Evacuation Operations	57, 106

O

Optical	103, 160
Oriental Press	107
Osan Air Base	216

P

Passport/Visa	41
Pet Care Center - Exercise, Boarding, and Grooming Services	113
Pets	42, 108
Postal Services	114
Prenatal Care	101
Preschools	123

R

Ration Card	55
Ration Control	116
Red Cloud, USAG	217
Religious Services	116
Repairs	160
Royal Asiatic Society	73

S

Schools	120
Scouts	125
Self-Help	58, 87
Seoul Grand Park	187
Seoul Tower	180
Shuttle Bus	131
Singapore	207
Ski Resorts	188
SOFA	55, 125
Space Available Flights	126
Stanley, Camp	218
Subway	132, 176
Suwon Air Base	218
Swimming	127

T

Taiwan	207
Taxis	133
Telephones	128
Television	129
Tennis	130

Thailand	208
Thrift Shop	130
Toy Alley	152
Trains	133
Travel Medicine Clinic	198
Travel Services	211
Tricare	57, 134

U

Unaccompanied Baggage	44
U.S. Air Force	54
U.S. Army	54
U.S. Marine Corps	54
U.S. Navy	54
USO	134

V

Vehicles	135
Veterans Affairs	136
Video Rental	136
Vietnam	209
Visas	137
Visitors	137

W

Walker, Camp	218
War Museum	180
Water	138
Weather	139
Women Infants And Children	104
Woongjin Play City	187

Y

Yongsan, USAG	218
---------------	-----

Z

Zoo	139
-----	-----

USAG-Yongsan Gates

Gate #	Gate Name	Hours	ESPG
1	Dragon Hill Lodge	24/7	
2	R&R Bar and Grill	Closed	
3	MARFOR-K	0500-2100 (7 Days)	
4	CPAC	0500-0900 (M-F Only)	
5	PX Gas Station	0600-2400 (7 Days)	Yes
6	Commissary	24/7	
7	TMP	24/7	
8	Blackhawk Village	Closed	Yes
9	Sobinggo	24/7	
13	South Post Visitor Center	24/7	
14	Hospital	0600-0900 1330-1530	Yes
16	MP Station	0500-0900 (M-F Only) 1500-1800 (M-F Only)	
17	Camp Kim	24/7	
18	Camp Coiner	Closed Walk-Thru	Yes
19	Camp Coiner Visitor	0500-2100 (7 Days)	
20	Camp Coiner Hill	Closed	Yes
21	Friendship House	Closed	Yes



On point with
ORIENTAL PRESS

Printed by **Oriental Press**

Getting to Incheon International Airport



Source of <http://www.airport.kr/airport/brochure/brochureList.iaa?langGubun=E>

Ground Transportation (1st Floor)



Taxi	
5C Deluxe Jumbo Taxi	6C Taxi for Seoul-City
6D Taxi for Gyeonggi-Province	7C Taxi for Incheon
	8C Taxi for Daejeon
4D International Taxi	

Use information of Airport Shuttle Bus (Free of charge)				
Station	Bus No.	Station	Time of departure	Bus No.
City-Terminal	101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200	City-Terminal	06:00, 07:00, 08:00, 09:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00, 18:00, 19:00, 20:00, 21:00, 22:00, 23:00, 24:00	City-Terminal
Long-term Parking Lot	101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200	Transfer Terminal, Long-term Parking Lot	06:00, 07:00, 08:00, 09:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00, 18:00, 19:00, 20:00, 21:00, 22:00, 23:00, 24:00	City-Terminal
Right International Building, Concourse	101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200	Passenger Terminal, IC, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200	06:00, 07:00, 08:00, 09:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00, 18:00, 19:00, 20:00, 21:00, 22:00, 23:00, 24:00	City-Terminal

Source of <http://www.airport.kr/airport/brochure/brochureList.iaa?langGubun=E>

Airport Railroad



Airport Railroad

Item	Railroad Course	First train / Last train Time	The Time Required
Commuter Train	Incheon Airport ~ Seoul Station	05:20 / 23:21	53min
Express Train	Incheon Airport ~ Seoul Station	05:30 / 21:30	44min

Facilities for Disabled

- Station : Exclusive restroom for the handicapped, Elevator, Information map, Braille induction guide block, Voice induction guide
- Train : Every train is equipped with a space designated for a wheel-chair.

Information on Airport Railway

- Tel : (032) 745-7788

Information on airport train reservation

- www.arex.or.kr

Railroad Lost and Found (Gimpo Airport Station)

- Tel : (032) 745-7777

Emergency phone number

- Tel : (032) 745-7303



Source of

<http://www.airport.kr/airport/brochure/brochureList.iaa?langGubun=E>

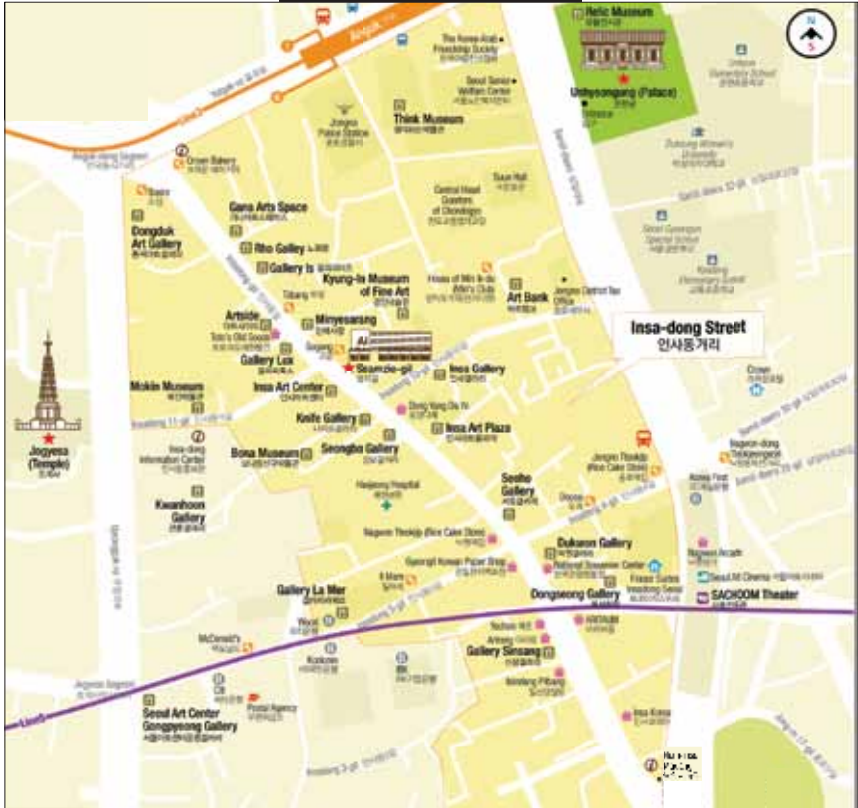
Jongno



The remarkable Changdeokgung(Palace) listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site is an important cultural heritage place. It represents Seoul as much as the more familiar and main Gyeongbokgung(Palace) from the Joseon Dynasty. Both historic sites are concentrated in the area in addition to the culturally renowned neighborhoods of Bukchon and Insa-dong, which represent the hub of culture, fashion with their exquisite teashops. In addition, the night view of Jongno-gu is splendid and the brisk Cheonggyecheon stream flows under the splendor of modern Seoul's glistening skyscrapers. The area is full of shops selling an eclectic variety of jewelry, china, clothing and textiles, and musical instruments.

Source of
http://contents.visitseoul.net/file_save/ebook/2011/12/29/20111229132135.pdf

Insa-dong



One of the Seoul's most visited places among foreign travelers, Insa-dong is often regarded as a museum in which modern and tradition coexist in a harmonious manner. The district contains historical sites and its roads and alleys are lined with traditional tea houses, restaurants, calligraphy shops, antique shops, art galleries and craft workshops. Its main road turns into a pedestrian zone every Saturday afternoon and Sunday, offering a venue for exciting street performances including traditional folk performances.

Subway line No 3 (1 minutes walk from Anguk station)

Subway line No 1 (3 minutes walk from Jonggak station)

Subway line No 1,3,5 (3 minutes walk from Jongno 3(sam)-ga station)

Source of http://contents.visitseoul.net/file_save/ebook/2011/12/29/20111229132135.pdf

Itaewon Street



Itaewon is the most exotic place in Seoul representing fusion culture with a distinctive atmosphere. Many people say, “You may not know Seoul, but you should know Itaewon,” showing how renowned of a shopping district Itaewon is. The Itaewon shopping area covers a 1.4 km long street, stretching from Itaewon 1-dong eastwards to Hannam 2-dong. The area has a vibrant ambience with shops, restaurants, bars and street vendors. Most signboards are written in English, and people on the street speak some English.

Subway: Get off at Samgikji Stn. (Line 4)

Address: Itaewon-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

Item: Clothing, Traditional Goods, Leather Goods, Shoes etc.

Source of http://contents.visitseoul.net/file_save/ebook/2011/12/29/20111229132135.pdf

Myeong-dong



Source of http://contents.visitseoul.net/file_save/ebook/2011/12/29/20111229132135.pdf

Namdaemun Market



Namdaemun Market, located in the very center of Seoul, is the biggest traditional market in Korea selling children's clothing, men & women's clothing, daily miscellaneous goods, kitchenware and many local and imported products. Most shops have their own factories and make the products themselves offering both wholesale and retail prices which enable visitors to purchase various shopping items at an extremely inexpensive price. Foreign visitors to Namdaemun Market show different interests: the Japanese are more into foods like Kim (seaweed), Kimchi, and Ginseng, while the Chinese show interest in clothing and miscellaneous goods. On the other hand, most tour-

ists from the west simply enjoy the ambience of the traditional market. Hours vary by store, so it's advisable to come with a shopping list before you start the actual shopping.

Subway:
Get off at City Hall Stn. (Line 1)
Get off at City Hall Stn. (Line 2)

Address: Namchang-dong,
Jung-gu, Seoul

Item: Clothing, Chinas, Food, Glasses, Stationery, Sports Goods, Loather Goods etc.

Business Hours: 09:00 – 18:00

Dongdaemun Market



Ever since its opening in 1905, Dongdaemun Market has been one of the major markets in Korea. Specializing in wholesale clothing, the market has grown and includes more than 20 shopping malls. A full range of fashion items are found in Dongdaemun Market at inexpensive prices. Just name it and you shall find it! No wonder the market is always crowded with retailers, foreigners, customers and tourists.

Subway: Get off at Dongdaemun Stn. (Line1, Exit 3) Get off at Dongdaemun Stn. (Line 4, Exit 3)

Address: 289-3, Jongno 6(yuk)-ga, Jongno-gu, Seoul

Item: Clothing, Accessory, Bag etc.

Business Hours: 09:00 - 21:00