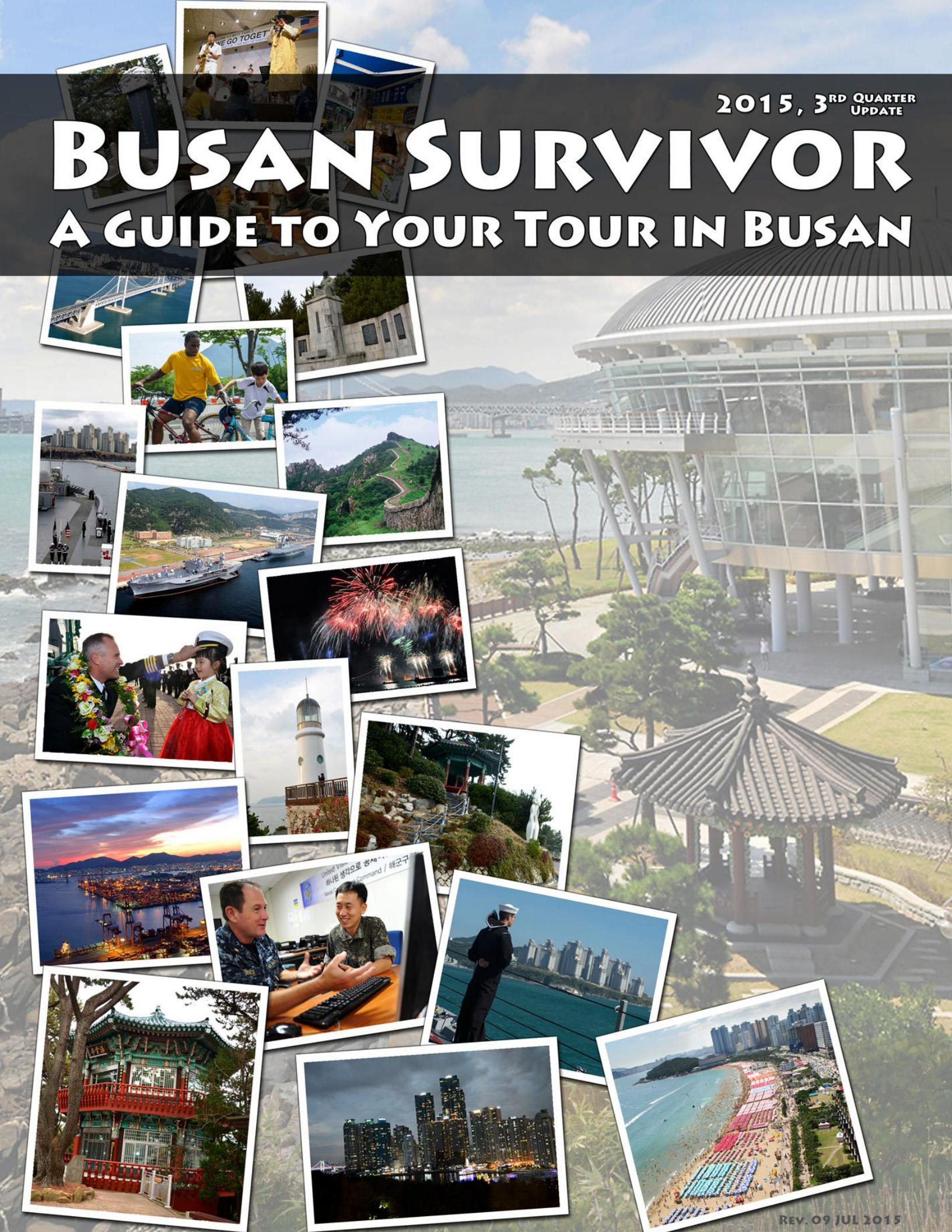


2015, 3RD QUARTER
UPDATE

BUSAN SURVIVOR

A GUIDE TO YOUR TOUR IN BUSAN





Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea
Commander, Navy Region Korea
Unit #15250
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The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea Public Affairs Office.

We strive to provide the most current information in this guide for our service members and their family members. Please help us make the next version even better by giving us feedback at cnfk-pao@fe.navy.mil.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome Aboard

Housing

Checking In – First Few Days in Korea	6
Finding a Home	6
Working with the CFAC Housing Office	7
Paying Rent	8
Loaner Furnishing Program	8
Household Goods	8
What to Bring	8
Groceries and Commissaries	10
Recycling and Garbage Disposal	10
Land Line Telephone	11
Cell Phone	11
Internet	11
Cable TV	11
Satellite TV	12
Mail and Postal Service	12

Health Care

Medical Screening	14
Military Treatment Facilities	14
International SOS and TRICARE	14
Korean Medical Facilities	15
Pharmacy	15
Dental Care	16
Eye Care	16
Pregnancy and Prenatal Care	17
Mental Health Care	17

Schools and Education

International Schools in Busan	19
DoDDS Schools in Korea	20
Preschool and Childcare	21
Home School	21
Distance Education	22

Cars and Driving

Driver's License	24
Vehicle Registration	24
Buying a Car in Korea	25
Gasoline	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Car Repair and Maintenance	25

Legal Matters

Passports	27
A-3 and SOFA Stamp	27
Defense Biometric Identification Data System (DBIDS)	28
ROK Base Access	29
Ration Control	29
Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO)	30
Alien Registration Card	31
Banking and ATMs	31
A-3 Visa and Employment	32
Volunteer Work	32
U.S. Military Installation Employment	32
Paid Employment on the Korean Economy	32
Obtaining a Work Permit	33

Pets

PCSing with Pets	35
U.S. Military Veterinary Services	35
U.S. Military Installation Pet Policy	35
Importation of Pets into Korea	36
Exportation of Pets from Korea	36

Things To Do

Dining in Busan	38
Shopping in Busan	39
Typical Korean Souvenirs	40
Tourist Attractions	41

Transportation

Public Transportation	43
Subway Lines	43
Bus Lines	44
Taxis	44
Rail Transportation	45
Air Transportation	45
Marine Transportation	45
Biking	46

WELCOME ABOARD

“Annyeong haseyo” (Good day) and welcome to the Republic of Korea. Located in Northeast Asia, the Republic of Korea has a great mix of historic and cultural sites to explore and traveling to other countries is very convenient.

You will be stationed in Busan, which has a population of approximately 4 million and is similar in size to Washington DC. The city is located on the southeastern most tip of the Korean peninsula. Busan is Korea’s principal port and is also the second largest city in the country.

This international port city has first class hotels and restaurants to match its excellent beaches, outstanding shopping and sightseeing areas. Additionally, the city has an excellent public transportation system that includes buses and a subway system.

Although Korea’s culture is very different from America, the Western influence is readily apparent in the metropolitan areas, like Busan. Because of this, Sailors assigned here often have the best of both worlds -- they can enjoy a foreign culture, but still experience a touch of home. For more information about Busan, please see the city’s website at english.busan.go.kr

The Republic of Korea (ROK) Naval Operations Base in Busan is the home of the ROK Fleet Headquarters and the future home of the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea Headquarters.

For the most current information on moving to Busan, please see our Command website at www.cnfk.navy.mil/regions/cnfk/ffr/relocation-to-busan.html.



HOUSING



HOUSING

CHECKING IN – FIRST FEW DAYS IN KOREA

Arrival in the Republic of Korea can be a confusing process. Your first several days will be consumed with all the normal Navy check-in processes that are typical of any PCS. However, this is compounded by being in a foreign country and adjusting to a new time zone. Since the bulk of check-in requirements are completed at Commander, Fleet Activities Chinhae (CFAC), it may be advantageous to spend your first five or so days there.

The base at Chinhae has a Navy Gateway Inns and Suites, a dining facility called Turtle Cove, commissary and Navy Exchange. This is also the place where you can check in with personnel (PSD), IT systems, obtain your ration cards, register in DBIDS, complete medical/dental processing and other administrative requirements. Most importantly, this is where you will begin the procedure of finding housing. Once you have finished with your CFAC check in, you can move into temporary lodging in Busan and then find a place to live.

While residing in temporary lodging in Busan, you will likely have to front-load some initial out of pocket expenses. The per diem rate for Busan for 2015 is \$233 for lodging and \$147 for meals and incidental expenses. Remember, you are not allowed to use your Government Travel Charge Card for travel associated with PCS. You will receive Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA) to cover those expenses, but it may take up to two months for you to receive that allowance. By spending your first few days in Chinhae, you will keep your lodging cost down as well. In either scenario, be prepared to incur debt for costs associated with arrival to Busan while finding a home. But don't worry, you will be reimbursed later through TLA.

If you are interested in checking in at Chinhae, let your sponsor know before traveling to the Republic of Korea. This allows time for your sponsor to make appropriate plans for meeting you at the airport. It's your choice to check in at Chinhae or go straight to Busan.

FINDING A HOME

Busan is the second largest city in the Republic of Korea and has an abundance of modern apartments. However, there are still some differences from the U.S. standard such as size, electric voltage, garage, etc. There are ample apartments all over Busan, well within the Overseas Housing Allowance limits, in popular areas including Haeundae, Kyungsoong, Gwangalli and Centum City.

However, if living on a military base is the preferred option for you and your family, service members and their command-sponsored dependents can apply for on-base housing at CFAC in Chinhae or U.S. Army Garrison Daegu. Be aware that Chinhae is an approximately 1.5 hour drive from Busan each way, without traffic, while Daegu is approximately 2 hours drive each way, without traffic.

Service members have 3 options for house hunting: on your own, through the CFAC Housing Office in Chinhae, or through a local realtor, who is verified by the CFAC Housing Office.

It is highly recommended going through the CFAC Housing Office in order to get better service, prevent delays due to the language barrier and prevent complications such as financial dispute or eviction. Regardless of how you find your new home, all housing units must be inspected and certified by a CFAC Housing Representative as adequate and the lease must be processed by the CFAC Housing Office.

To see what a typical Korean apartment in Busan looks like, check out the video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZA3zDH21As.

HOUSING

WORKING WITH THE CFAC HOUSING OFFICE

The CFAC Housing Office can help service members find a rental in Busan that meets all the requirements as outlined in USFK Reg 210-51, USFK Housing Referral Service Program. Safety inspections will be performed and a fair market price will be determined and agreed to by the owners. If you enter into a lease with a property using the CFAC Housing Office, they can assist if problems arise during your lease period.

Additionally, the CFAC Housing Office offers the following services for those moving to Busan:

- Maintains an open-referral system via realtors/landlord that ensures customers receive up-to-date information on nondiscriminatory rental properties.
- Reviews and processes a landlord's rental contract with the service member before signing.
- Processes the paperwork for a lease contract, Housing Application Form and the Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA).
- Provides interpretation services in dealing with landlords.
- Provides rental agreements in English and Korean.
- Performs property and safety inspections on properties.

The first step to moving to Busan is to make contact with the CFAC Housing Office through the Housing Early Application Tool (HEAT). Navy Housing has developed HEAT to assist service members and their families in applying for housing Navy-wide. HEAT allows service members and their families to get the housing application process started online before or after they receive their Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders. HEAT creates an easy user experience to connect with your PCS destination. Spouses can use the application as well, needing only minimal information about their service member. For more information about this program, please see the website at www.cnic.navy.mil/HEAT.

Once you are in the Republic of Korea, you will need to contact or stop by the CFAC Housing Office in Chinhae to be briefed on the Housing Referral Service program. A CFAC representative will help you schedule appointments to look at apartments in Busan with a local realtor. Once you have found a home that you want, the CFAC Housing Office will inspect the property and negotiate the rental contact with the property landlord.

Finally, the CFAC Housing Office will assist the service member in completing the necessary paperwork and documentation. You will need:

- Service member's PCS orders
- Housing Application Form (DD Form 1746)
- Foreign Allowances Application, Grant and Report (SF-1190) for OHA

For more information, please see the CFAC Housing Office website at www.cfachousing.net or call DSN: 315-762-5273, COMM from ROK: 050-3362-5273 or COMM from US: 011-82-10-3800-4847. For allowance or financial questions, please contact the CFAC Command Services Department at DSN:315-762-5203.

HOUSING

PAYING RENT

Typically, service members pay the monthly rent in the local currency, the Korean won, to the realtor (not the landlord) and should ask for a receipt for each transaction. Each apartment complex is slightly different, but in general maintenance and electric bills are similar to homeowner / condo fees plus monthly electric bill in the U.S. Service members stationed in Busan do receive an additional allowance for utilities on top of the standard Overseas Housing Allowance.

The Korea Electric Power Company (KEPCO) provides electricity in Busan and imposes 6 different base rates per KWh/h according to how much electricity you use. KEPCO has more information in English for foreign residents at www.kepco.co.kr/eng/ including how to read and how to pay your electric bill.

LOANER FURNISHING PROGRAM

Eligible service members are authorized available loaner furnishings for 90 days while waiting for their Household Goods. The CFAC Housing Office will process and schedule your furnishing request once your lease has been finalized. For more information, please contact the CFAC Housing office at DSN: 315-762-5291.

Additionally, the U.S. Army Housing Office at Camp Walker on USAG Daegu offers a wide range of loaner furniture that can be used for the entire length of a service member's tour. You will need to have your PCS orders, a copy of your lease, and a completed housing checklist from the CFAC Housing Office before you can apply for furniture. The furniture you choose will be delivered to your new home in Busan and picked up when you PCS to your next duty station.

For more information on this program, please contact the U.S. Army Housing Office at DSN: 315-768-8110 or refer to their website at www.housing.army.mil/ByInstallation/Default.aspx?baseId=403.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

All service members stationed in Busan will need to use the Household Goods Transportation office on USAG Daegu for inbound and outbound household goods shipping and receiving once housing has been secured. The office is located in Building T-1845 on Camp Henry in USAG Daegu at DSN: 315-768-6794. Please call to setup an appointment to discuss arrangements needed.

WHAT TO BRING

With any PCS move, one of the biggest issues is what to move and when to move it. There are so many things to buy, both on the local economy and when traveling, that nearly everyone goes home with more weight than they originally brought. Remember when you first arrive, you may have to live out of your luggage for a while or make purchases on the economy.

The Republic of Korea uses 220v power (vs. 110v power in the US). Most power adapters will work on both voltages, but always check the power adapter's range of voltage before you plug it in. If it says that range is at or over 220v you can use that adapter. If your device is only capable of running at 110v, then it will not work in the Republic of Korea, except on most U.S. military installations, which use standard U.S. power voltage.

The power outlet has two round holes and is the same type used in France, Germany, Austria, Greece, Turkey, and many other countries. So if your device's voltage range will work, you will still need a plug adapter to convert to the Korean outlet. If you want to buy an adapter in Korea, they are available at most Post Exchanges and on the economy. Additionally, be aware that sizes in the Republic of Korea are typically available for men and women of small build and children's sizes typically run much smaller than American children's sizes.

HOUSING

You will have four types of shipments for your PCS.

- Hand Carried and Flight Checked Baggage.
- Unaccompanied Baggage
- Household Goods Shipment
- CONUS Storage

As always, keep all your important documents and records with you as hand carried baggage. 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. For your flight-checked baggage, remember to check your orders and confirm with your airline about the number of bags and the weight limit. Some suggested essentials are current seasonal clothes, comfortable shoes, personal entertainment, favorite snacks, and any car/booster seats that you will need.

Your unaccompanied baggage or express shipment may be the only shipment you receive while you live in a hotel or temporary housing until your permanent housing is settled. Even if you move into your permanent housing right away, your household goods may not arrive for a few months. Consider sending the following items as unaccompanied baggage:

- Kitchen & eating necessities, including plates, utensils, pots and pans
- Towels (bath and kitchen)
- Bed linens including blankets and pillows
- Children's items, particularly their favorite games and toys
- Baby crib, changing table, jogger stroller, etc
- Computer equipment
- Small hand tools (hammer, screwdriver)
- Lightweight decorations

The government allows only a certain percentage of your total weight allowance to be shipped as household goods 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 Travel Management Office, or Personal Property Office for the correct information. Your household goods shipment may take several months to arrive, so you may want to consider sending this shipment early.

Regardless of your weight allowance, think carefully when deciding what to ship. Housing varies widely, but most quarters are smaller than U.S. homes and have minimal storage space. Consider bringing the following items:

- Small tools - Saw, impact-hammer drill (important as walls are concrete in most housing), mortar bits, etc.
- Clothing for larger builds - The choices on the economy tend to be for the young and the smaller in build.
- Rugs and carpets - Floors in most quarters are linoleum over concrete, and they are cold unless you turn on the in-floor heating.
- Christmas and other holiday decorations - You may want to downsize the quantity due to the size of your new living space.
- Pictures, books and decorative items. - Keep in mind, though, that most quarters have walls made of concrete.
- Room air cleaners and filters – Korea has dust and seasonal pollen that can be very hard on those with allergies.
- Dehumidifier/humidifier - 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.

HOUSING

Consider NOT bringing the following items:

- Large pieces of furniture, which may not fit in a smaller sized rooms
- Large outdoor toys or play sets, as you most likely will be living in an apartment
- Major appliances such as a stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washing machine and dryer as they are furnished in most apartments

For a complete list of suggestions on what to bring to Korea, please see the Seoul Survivor, a guidebook written by military spouses living in Seoul. It can be downloaded from the American Forces' Spouses' Club website at www.afscyongsan.org/seoul-survivor.html.

GROCERIES AND COMMISSARIES

While there is no military Commissary in Busan, the city has a wide variety of options for purchasing groceries. There are several large retailers such as HomePlus, eMart, MegaMart and Costco, which offer Korean, American and even international goods. Additionally, there are several local markets offering everything from fresh fish to local vegetables.

The closest Commissary is located in the Fleet & Family Town Center on CFAC in Chinhae (DSN: 315-762-5327) and offers most basic items at U.S. prices. A larger Commissary is located on Camp Walker, Bldg T-357 at USAG Daegu (DSN: 764-4551). Both are normally closed on Monday.

Be aware that you must present your military ID card and ration control card to enter the Commissaries. Therefore, visitors and dependents without a ration control card will not be able to "window shop" at these stores, even if escorted by their service member sponsor. Active Duty Military members may enter and purchase items at any time by showing their ID card, which serves as their ration control card. The products sold at the Commissaries are strictly for the personal use of authorized SOFA personnel.

RECYCLING AND GARBAGE DISPOSAL

The Republic of Korea uses a system called "jongnyangje" for garbage collection and recycling. All garbage must be disposed of properly otherwise you may be fined. Garbage must be separated according to whether it is common garbage (ilban sseuregi), food waste (eumsikmul sseuregi), recyclable (jaehwal yongpum), or large waste objects (daehyeong pyegimul). Ask your CFAC Housing Office representative or the local agent about disposal days and proper methods of disposal.

Regulation garbage bags must be used. If you don't use regulation garbage bags, your garbage will not be collected. The bags can be purchased at local supermarkets or convenience stores in your neighborhood. There are generally six or seven sizes: 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 liters, and prices vary according to size.

Disposal Procedures:

- Common Garbage - Use regulation garbage bags and place outside in designated area. Ask your CFAC Housing Office representative or the local agent about where to place your garbage bags.
- Food Waste - There are collection bins dedicated for food waste disposal and located at designated areas within each apartment complex, you do not need to use regulation garbage bags.
- Recyclable Items - Materials that are recyclable such as plastic, cans, bottles, and paper should be put in a clear plastic bag and put in the designated area on collection day.
- Large Waste Objects - Home electronics and large items of garbage that cannot be placed in bags should be placed in the collection area after attaching a sticker purchased for these items. Ask your CFAC Housing Office representative or the local agent for details.

HOUSING

Service members should know that each apartment complex has unique rules for trash disposal and you should ask about the particular rules and regulations while apartment hunting.

LAND LINE TELEPHONE

Two companies provide land line or wired telephone services in Busan: KT Corp at www.kt.com/eng/main.jsp and SK Broadband at www.skbbroadband.com/eng/index.asp. Please see each company, for details on fees and services offered. However, all foreigners need a copy of their passport and alien registration card in order to apply for service.

CELL PHONE

All the mobile phone networks in the Republic of Korea are CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access), not GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) as in many other parts of the world. In the U.S., we use both systems. Sprint, Verizon and U.S. Cellular use CDMA, while AT&T and T-Mobile use GSM.

Therefore, you may be able to use your U.S. phone in the Republic of Korea depending on your network provider. However, you will need to have it unlocked by the U.S. network provider prior to leaving the U.S. and you will need to purchase a new Korean SIM card from the network provider of your choice.

Korean cell phones, as well as service plans, can be purchased by service members and military dependents at the Post Exchange on Camp Walker in USAG Daegu and/or the Fleet & Family Town Center on CFAC in Chinhae.

SK Telecom at www.tworld.co.kr/eng/, KT Olleh at www.kt.com/eng/main.jsp, and LG U+ at www.uplus.co.kr/com/main/pemain/PeMain.hpi are the most widely used mobile companies in the Republic of Korea. You can find more information on products and service rates on each company's website. You will need to a copy of your passport, military ID card and/or alien registration card to apply for services.

For the most part, Korean cell phone service plans are comparable in price to U.S. cell phone service plans. You are encouraged to research all cell phone companies and options and choose a plan that best fits your individual or family requirements.

INTERNET

The main telecom service providers, such as KT Olleh, LG U+, and SK Broadband offer high-speed internet. You can call a consultation number or apply for these services on their websites. An installation engineer will visit your home and install the needed equipment. You can find more information on products and service rates on each company's website. Typically, the rental fee of wired Internet modem equipment and wireless router equipment must be paid separately.

CABLE TV

In the Republic of Korea, most television stations are delivered by cable or satellite. There is almost no basic television service through antenna reception.

Korean cable TV offers a variety of domestic and foreign channels. Cable companies and channel selection will also vary according to your geographical area. One advantage of cable is that there are many companies that offer packages with a high-speed internet connection to the service.

In some apartment buildings, cable services are rolled into the rent. Please ask your landlord or real estate agent to see if this is an option. If not, you will need your passport or alien registration card number, and a Korean bank account number, so that you can set up an automatic transfer, to setup cable TV services. For the phone number of the local cable companies in your area, please contact the Korea Cable TV Association at www.kcta.or.kr or COMM from Korea: 02-735-6511.

HOUSING

SATELLITE TV

SkyLife is the main satellite TV provider in the Republic of Korea. However, depending on the region, there may be other providers available. It is recommended to research all local providers in your area before making a decision on which services are right for you.

There are two kinds of interactive satellite TV services: independent interactive services and connected interactive services. Independent interactive services are similar to web services. Viewers can navigate to the information they want through their TV. Through connected interactive services, viewers can watch TV and read the synopsis of dramas or buy clothes that the main characters in the dramas wear. To watch satellite programs, you need an antenna, receiver, Smart Card, and remote control.

For more information, please see the SkyLife website at www.skylife.co.kr/eng. You can contact the SkyLife services by calling their customer service center at COMM from Korea: 1588-3002. Alternatively, you can send an email to the following e-mail address: english@skylife.co.kr and the company will contact you.

MAIL AND POSTAL SERVICE

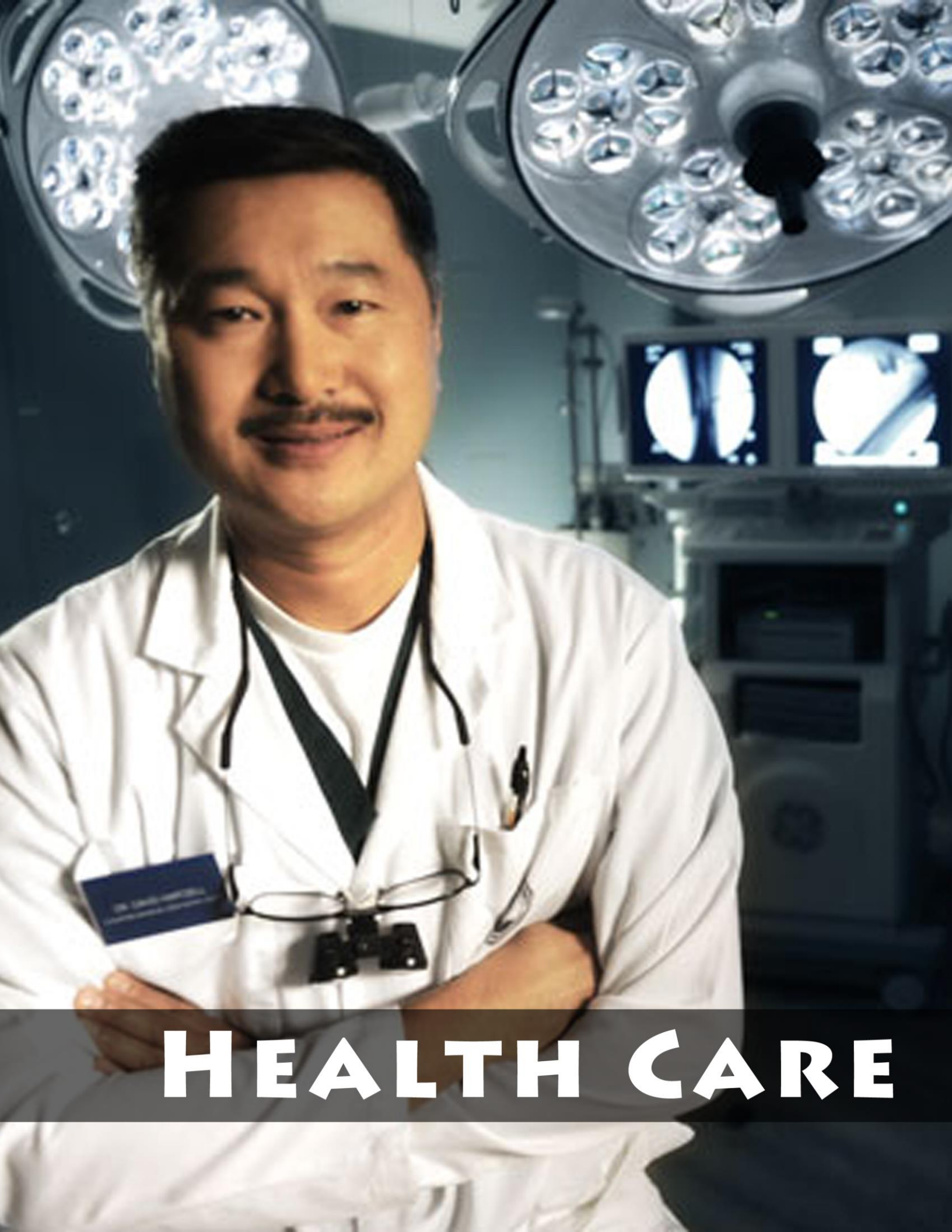
The Army Post Office (APO) processes all mail coming to and from the Armed Forces Pacific (AP) Region. Your sponsor or gaining unit should provide you with a mailing address so you can fill out change of address forms before you PCS. All service members and dependents stationed in Busan are required to receive personal mail through their unit. The positive effect of this policy is that you will be able to obtain your permanent mailing address in Korea before leaving the U.S. since your address is not based upon your housing unit.

Most U.S. online retailers ship to APO addresses and offer the same shipping method options to APO addresses that they offer for a residential address in the continental United States. Priority Mail gets to and from the U.S. in about 4 to 10 days. Parcel post takes 6-8 weeks.

Additionally, sending mail to and from Busan costs the same as continental United States postal rates. Priority mail flat rate boxes are available in several sizes and the shipping cost is around \$9-15 regardless of weight.

There are a limited number of Post Office Boxes, so please see the Postal Clerk to check availability. However, a PO Box is not required to receive mail through the unit address.

The Post Office is located on the 2nd Floor of the Military Sealift Command Korea HQ Building on Pier 8 (DSN: 315-763-3113). Its hours of operation are Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 to 13:30. They have limited supply of postal mailing boxes, custom forms and labels in the office.



HEALTH CARE

HEALTH CARE

MEDICAL SCREENING

Medical screening for overseas duty is required for both active duty personnel and their dependents prior to transfer from their detaching command. Certain conditions requiring continuous specialty care may be determined to be incompatible with this location. Decisions on overseas suitability are referred to Naval Hospital Yokosuka's OSS committee in coordination with the Senior Medical Officer (SMO) at BHC Chinhae. Their guidelines can be found at www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhyoko/Pages/OverseasScreening.aspx.

MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITIES

Branch Health Clinic (BHC) Chinhae on Fleet Activities Chinhae is the closest DoD medical facility and is a satellite clinic of the U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka, Japan. The clinic is staffed by a Family Medicine Physician and an Independent Duty Corpsman and 5 other Navy Corpsmen. It provides outpatient medical care (adult, pediatric and OB/Gyn) to the active duty service members, their dependents, retirees, civilian contractors, and Americans working abroad in Korea.

All active duty Navy service members stationed in Busan must be enrolled at BHC Chinhae. Dependents in Busan are typically enrolled in TRICARE Overseas Prime Remote, which allows them to see a local Korean physician for primary care, but some families choose to enroll at BHC Chinhae or seek periodic care at BHC Chinhae for certain needs and second opinions. For more information about BHC Chinhae, see their website at www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhyoko/Pages/Chinhae.aspx.

For clinical issues that cannot be addressed at the Korean TRICARE-affiliated facilities or BHC Chinhae, referrals can be made to the Wood Army Medical Clinic on Camp Walker at U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Daegu in Daegu or the Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital on U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Yongsan in Seoul.

The U.S. Military central appointment line for the entire Korean peninsula is DSN: 315-737-2273. For more information about the U.S. Army medical facilities, see their websites at www.korea.amedd.army.mil/Medical/PCMH/default.html and www.korea.amedd.army.mil/Medical/PCMH/Walker/default.html.

INTERNATIONAL SOS AND TRICARE

International SOS (ISOS) is the TRICARE-affiliated service that coordinates health care overseas in Busan. TRICARE Overseas Prime Remote provides beneficiaries with the benefits of TRICARE Overseas Prime in designated overseas locations not supported by a local Military Treatment Facility, like in Busan. Active Duty service members and their eligible family members must enroll in the program. Medical care is provided to beneficiaries through a network of credentialed host nation civilian providers in Busan managed by International SOS.

You can find more information about this program at www.tricare-overseas.com/TPR.htm or call an ISOS representative at COMM from Korea: 080-429-0880. Additionally, you can contact a TRICARE representative for information on the health benefit options, which cover dependents within the Republic of Korea. The Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital in Seoul has a TRICARE office at DSN: 315-737-1433 and BHC Chinhae at DSN: 315-762-5415 can provide guidance on benefits.

HEALTH CARE

KOREAN MEDICAL FACILITIES

Many of the Korean hospitals in Busan maintain an international clinic with reception, appointment booking and translation services in English, Russian, Chinese, Japanese and other languages. Many of the specialty physicians are U.S. or British trained and fluent or conversant in English.

In Busan, inpatient and specialty care is provided at one of four TRICARE-approved and accredited local Korean hospitals.

- Busan St. Mary's Hospital (Sung Mo)
www.bsm.or.kr/02info/info08.asp
COMM from U.S.: 011-82-51-933-7061
- Pusan National University Hospital
International Health Center
www1.pnuh.co.kr/english/english/00_main/main.jsp
COMM from U.S.: 011-82-10-2799-7031
- Dong-Eui Medical Center
International Medical Center
eng.demc.kr/index.asp
COMM from U.S.: 011-82-51-850-8941
- Ilsin Christian Hospital
eng.ilsin.or.kr/main.do
COMM from U.S.: 011-82-51-630-0678

Emergency care can be provided at any of the above-listed facilities. The emergency telephone number for an ambulance in the Republic of Korea is 119 (no, this is not a typo). There is no need to put an area code when dialing, even if calling from a cell phone. Typically, translators are available in over a dozen languages, including English.

However, if no translator is available when you call, you can also dial the Emergency Medical Information Center (EMIC) at 1339 and they will interpret for you. EMIC has a bilingual staff that speaks Korean plus English, Japanese, or Chinese to help if you are having trouble communicating with Korean medical staff while you are at a clinic or hospital.

Whenever and wherever you receive any medical care from Korean medical facilities, it is recommend you request documentation of your care and ensure that it is properly entered into your military medical record. This will ensure your future continuity of care, and that you have supporting documentation for any future questions about your possible VA medical benefits. You can bring any copies of Korean medical records to the BHC Chinhae to be entered in your records.

Please check for the most current information on TRICARE-approved providers at www.tricare-overseas.com/ProviderSearch/SearchContent.aspx.

PHARMACY

The closest full-service military pharmacy is in the Wood Army Medical Clinic on Camp Walker at USAG Daegu in Daegu at DSN: 315-737-4803. BHC Chinhae also maintains a small pharmacy, and can fill up to a 3 month supply of most medications at no cost to you, if you have been seen as a patient at the BHC. Because the BHC Chinhae Pharmacy gets its resupply from the large US Army pharmacy at Camp Walker in Daegu, you need to give the BHC Chinhae Pharmacy a week's notice before you need a refill to that there will be sufficient time to receive your refill from the Army.

Additionally, you can have your prescriptions filled locally in Busan. However, you will need to pay out of pocket for these medications and then get reimbursed from TRICARE. You must fill out a DD Form 2642 and submit it to the TRICARE claims department, along with a copy of your prescription (in English) and your receipt (in English or Korean). The reimbursement process can take up to 2 months for a payment check to be mailed to your address.

If you have questions about how to submit a reimbursement claim, please contact a TRICARE or ISOS representative. If you need help finding a local pharmacy, please check the TRICARE website and search for Pharmacy at

HEALTH CARE

www.tricare-overseas.com/ProviderSearch/SearchContent.aspx.

Express Scripts is a mail-order pharmacy for TRICARE. All medications are provided at no cost, if the medication itself is covered by TRICARE. You have to create an account on the site and follow the procedures to have the prescribing physician submit the prescription to Express Scripts. Once that is completed, the prescription is filled and mailed to your address, which is an APO.

For more information about this program, please see the website at www.tricare.mil/homedelivery or www.express-scripts.com.

DENTAL CARE

There is no U.S. military dentist stationed in Chinhae. For that reason, service members and their dependents should have their Dental status updated prior to departure for the Republic of Korea and are encouraged to have any issues addressed at that time.

A U.S. Army dentist comes twice a year from the USAG Daegu to provide general dentistry at BHC Chinhae for active duty personnel only. Services provided include: exams, fillings, X-ray, and hygiene. Appointments should be made through the BHC Chinhae.

Active duty service members and dependents over the age of 13 can seek routine dental care at the Bodine Dental Clinic on Camp Walker at USAG Daegu at DSN: 315-764-4307 or the Dental Clinic on Camp Carroll at USAG Daegu at DSN: 315-765-8685. Emergency and sick call dental visits are seen at the Bodine Dental Clinic.

Additional dental resources for dependents are available through local Korean TRICARE-affiliated dental offices via MetLife. All dependent beneficiaries are encouraged to enroll in MetLife, TRICARE's dental program, on arrival to Korea to maintain their dental health and readiness. For more information on this program, visit the MetLife/TRICARE dental program's website at mybenefits.metlife.com/tricare. To check for the most current Dental providers in Busan, please see the search application at www.tricare-overseas.com/ProviderSearch/SearchContent.aspx.

EYE CARE

It is recommended that all service members come with two pair of eyeglasses or adequate contact lenses, gas mask inserts (command requirement) and a written prescription for your eyeglasses in case you need to replace them while in the Republic of Korea. Glasses and contact can be purchased on the local economy at prices comparable to the U.S.

The U.S. Army has an optometry clinic near the Wood Army Medical Clinic at Camp Walker on USAG Daegu in Daegu at DSN: 315-737-4709 and one on USAG Yongsan in Seoul at DSN: 315-737-1464.

Service members and dependents can make appointments for routine optometry care, including diabetic eye screenings at either of these clinics. USAG Daegu provides 2 days of on-site full-scope optometry with same or next day fabrication of glasses and inserts once annually at BHC Chinhae. Appointments should be made through the BHC Chinhae.

Additional optometric resources for dependents are available through local Korean TRICARE-affiliated optometry offices via ISOS and TRICARE Overseas Prime Remote. You can find more information about this program at www.tricare-overseas.com/TPR.htm or call an ISOS representative at COMM from Korea: 080-429-0880.

HEALTH CARE

PREGNANCY AND PRENATAL CARE

Routine prenatal care can be done at BHC Chinhae, but patients will need to deliver at a local Korean Hospital or larger Military Treatment Facility. Many patients will establish care with a local obstetrician, but will also be seen at the BHC Chinhae to ensure pregnancy-related counseling and testing meets American standards of care.

Routine pregnancies may choose to deliver at the Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital on USAG Yongsan in Seoul, or a local Korean Hospital. Those who choose to deliver at the Army hospital in Seoul will be transferred to Seoul at 38 weeks gestation. Some complicated pregnancies may require referral earlier than 38 weeks. Please contact BHC Chinhae for more information about this program.

Single members who become pregnant will generally be transferred from Korea before 20 weeks gestation. This is a USFK policy, which has precedence over OPNAVINSTR.

Obstetric emergencies are seen by a local Korean obstetrician at St Mary's Hospital or Pusan National University Hospital in Busan. Many patients have been satisfied with their delivery and prenatal care in the local Korean hospitals.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE

Mental health care is one of the most difficult medical needs to meet in the Republic of Korea. The closest Military Treatment Facility for mental health care of a service member is at the Wood Army Medical Clinic on Camp Walker at USAG Daegu, which has one psychologist and two social workers.

Additionally, there are two Military & Family Life Counseling (MFLC) Program counselors in Daegu who are available to Navy personnel in Busan.

They can be reached at COMM: 010-8693-5146 or 010-4965-0644 and via email at mflcdaegu@gmail.com.

The Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital on USAG Yongsan in Seoul has a full scope of mental and behavioral health care for both service members and dependents, including inpatient psychiatric, but can only accommodate once monthly or bi-monthly visits or in emergency cases to provide stabilization prior to transfer to a CONUS facility.

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION



SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN BUSAN

There are no Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS) located in Busan. The two fully accredited international schools in Busan are Busan International Foreign School (BIFS) and Busan Foreign School (BFS). It is possible for military dependents to attend other Korean and private schools in Busan as well. However, service members must register and get approval through the Non-DoD Schools Program (NDSP) at www.dodea.edu/nondod/.

BIFS, formerly known as the International School of Busan, was established in 1983, and has a long and distinguished history of serving the international expatriate community in and around the Busan area. In the summer of 2010, BIFS was able to move to its current state-of-the-art purpose-built facility, built with the support of the city government.

The school's goal is to provide students with a high quality education that will equip and enable them to acquire the attributes of the International Baccalaureate learner profile and to gain entrance to and succeed at the finest international universities around the world. BIFS offers programs for students from Pre-school to 12th Grade through their Early Learning Centre, Elementary School, Middle School and High School.

BIFS has received authorization from the International Baccalaureate Organization to provide the IB Primary Years Program (PYP) and the IB Diploma Program. These are international, transdisciplinary programs designed to foster the development of the whole child, not just in the classroom but also through other means of learning. Additionally, BIFS is accredited by the Western Association for Schools and Colleges (WASC).

For more information, please see the school website at www.bifskorea.org and photos at www.flickr.com/photos/usnavykorea/sets/72157648744788082/.

BFS opened its doors to the Busan community and its surrounding areas in October of 1996. With only two students originally, it has since expanded to encompass nursery (age 3) to twelfth grade, currently educating over 220 students from 25 different nations. In addition to the increase in enrollment, the curriculum has developed into a highly rigorous American standards-based program that offers students a wide variety of courses and activities. BFS is fully accredited from prekindergarten to grade 12 by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

The school's mission is to inspire each learner and provide educational services that nurture their social, intellectual, emotional, and physical growth. The staff strives to prepare BFS students to enter top universities worldwide and become responsible, contributing citizens in a rapidly changing world.

Located in the Haeundae New Town area, BFS is situated among modern high rises, an array of Asian and western-style restaurants, scenic hiking trails, and the popular and picturesque Haeundae Beach. In the summer of 2012, the school broke ground for a new state-of-the-arts facility that will encompass a gymnasium, a theater, a cafeteria, a science laboratory, a computer lab, classrooms, administrative and Staff log-in offices, conference rooms, PTSO room, and landscaped terraces and outdoor gardens.

For more information, please see the school website at www.busanforeignschool.org and photos at www.flickr.com/photos/usnavykorea/sets/72157648744788102/.

Both BFS and BIFS charge fees that are not covered by Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), but both schools offer programs to DoD and other U.S. government employee families to cover these costs. Please contact the schools directly for more information on these fees.

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

DODDS SCHOOLS IN KOREA

C. T. Joy Elementary School on CFAC in Chinhae has approximately forty children in kindergarten through 8th grade. Those who choose to enroll command-sponsored family members in C.T. Joy Elementary School may live in Chinhae and have their sponsor commute to/from work in Busan, approximately 1.5 hours each way, without traffic. However, if you choose to live in Busan, you are not allowed to enroll your dependents in the DoD school in Chinhae because you will reside outside the school commuting area as per DoDEA policy. Families are free to choose the best schooling and living options that fit their individual needs.

Please see the C. T. Joy Elementary School website at www.ctjoy-es.pac.dodea.edu and www.dodea.edu/Pacific/Korea/CFACChinhae/CTJoyES/ for more information about its program.

Daegu American School (DAS) and Daegu High School (DHS) have been serving family members of military and civilian personnel for over 30 years. DAS is located on Camp George in Daegu and serves grades Sure Start – 8 with an enrollment of approximately 700 students. DHS is located on Camp Walker in Daegu and has an enrollment size of 350 students. The high school serves children from USAG Daegu and CFAC, due to an exception to policy that allows CFAC students to attend DHS as there are no accredited international high schools in Chinhae.

Those who choose to enroll command-sponsored family members in DAS or DHS may live in Daegu and have their sponsor commute to/from work in Busan, approximately 2 hours each way, without traffic. However, if you choose to live in Busan, you are not allowed to enroll your dependents in the DoD schools in Daegu because you will reside outside the school commuting area as per DoDEA policy. Families are free to choose the best schooling and living options that fit their individual needs.

At DAS, the elementary program, Kindergarten through grade five, operates in self-contained classrooms with specialists available in music, art, Korean culture, computer education, physical education and a foreign language (Spanish). Grades six and eight follow the pattern of curriculum for general education in United States secondary schools.

Daegu American School is fully accredited by the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges, the largest school accrediting agency in the United States. Specialists in Learning Disabilities, Speech Therapy, English as a Second Language, and Reading are available to students PK- 8 who require additional services.

Daegu High School strives to offer a rigorous academic program, along with engaging creative and extracurricular opportunities, all designed to encourage excellence from students. Their accreditation process and standards, which are certified by DoDEA and Advanced ED, are based on ongoing self-assessment against quality standards, rigorous on-site evaluation, and continuous improvement. Diplomas and credits earned at DHS are fully recognized and transferable.

DHS students have the chance to compete in year-round sports and extracurricular activities with other DoDDS schools in Korea and the Pacific, including Japan, Guam, and Okinawa.

Military and civilian command-sponsored dependents are eligible for enrollment. Limited enrollment in grades K-12 is available to dependents of non-command-sponsored personnel, as there are space-availability constraints.

For more information on the DoDDS schools in Daegu, please see their websites at www.dodea.edu/Pacific/Korea/CampWalker/DaeguHS for DHS and www.dodea.edu/Pacific/korea/campgeorge/daeguamericanschool/ for DAS.

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

Additional resources are available through the School Liaison Officer and the Child, Youth and School Services office at USAG Daegu at www.cysskorea.com/daegu/schoolsupport.html

PRESCHOOL AND CHILDCARE

Like DoDDS, there is no DoD childcare available in Busan. Korean daycare/preschool can vary in cost, depending on the school and program. Both International Schools as well as other public and private schools in Busan offer Pre-K, however DoDEA does not cover the cost and parents should contact the schools directly about Pre-K fees and programs to waive those costs. Please talk with your sponsor and other military spouses for referrals and always ask for references.

HOME SCHOOL

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) has no jurisdiction over the education of overseas military dependent children. It is DoDEA policy to neither encourage nor discourage DoD sponsors from home schooling their minor dependents. DoDEA recognizes that homeschooling is a sponsor's right and can be a legitimate alternative form of education for their dependents. According to DoD policy, the installation Commander's responsibilities are logistical or administrative, there is no educational oversight regarding the public education provided by DoDDS.

What's best for somebody else's child may not be best for yours. Before making a decision, it is important to gather as much information as you can about the kind of education that will most benefit your child; whether it is homeschooling or another type of schooling.

Home School Resources:

- DoDEA Virtual School Program at www.dodea.edu/Curriculum/virtualSchool/index.cfm
- National Home Education Research Institute at www.nheri.org

- United States Distance Learning Association at www.usdla.org
- Home School Legal Defense Association at www.hsllda.org

To qualify for financial assistance for homeschooling, dependents must be Non-DoD Schools Program (NDSP) eligible. Generally speaking, in areas and circumstances where dependents are authorized to attend private schools, families will have the option to receive financial assistance for homeschooling through the NDSP.

Parents electing to provide home-schooling instruction rather than enrolling their child in a local school must follow the procedures and guidelines of the NDSP. For more information on this program, please see the NDSP: Home-based Education website at www.dodea.edu/nonDoD/HomeBasedEducation.cfm

To find out some of the legal considerations concerning homeschooling overseas, visit the Homeschooling Legal Defense Association (www.hsllda.org, search "Military Homeschooling Overseas"). Because school age 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.

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

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 U.S. Your student can register with a school and take single classes in Elementary, Middle and High School. Please contact the individual DoDDS program for more information.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

Service members and family members have access to non-traditional educational opportunities through the CFAC Support & Training Center in Chinhae. Additionally, there are several colleges and programs available at the Camp Henry Education Center on USAG Daegu in Daegu.

While CFAC in Chinhae is considered a Test Center, CLEP testing is available only at National Test Centers located at Yongsan, Osan, Kunsan and Camp Henry in Daegu. The CFAC Support & Training Center will assist to setup a testing time at these sites.

Several colleges offer distance education programs (on-line, video), which permit the service member to complete coursework without having to travel to the school. Information on all available distance learning programs can be found at the CFAC Support & Training Center at DSN: 315-762-5385 or the Camp Henry Education Center at DSN: 315-768-7919/7348.

The Joint Language University has made Rosetta Stone and the CL-150 suite available for Service Members, which will allow you to start learning the language here and navigate through talking with locals.

https://jlu.wbtrain.com/sumtotal/jlu2.0/HOME/index.asp?error=invalid_logon

An aerial night photograph of a city, likely Seoul, South Korea. The image is dominated by a dense urban landscape with numerous buildings, many of which are brightly lit. A prominent feature is a tall, illuminated tower on the left side, which appears to be the N Seoul Tower. The city's lights create a vibrant, colorful scene. In the foreground, a major highway or expressway is visible, with long, bright light trails from cars moving through the frame, indicating heavy traffic. The overall atmosphere is one of a bustling, modern metropolis at night.

CARS AND DRIVING

CARS AND DRIVING

DRIVER'S LICENSE

Active-duty military personnel and family members (age 18 or older) who are planning to drive a Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) must get a USFK driver's license. However, you may use your stateside driver's license to legally drive in the Republic of Korea for the first 30 days after your arrival. Your U.S. driver's license should be current for your entire tour in the Republic of Korea and most state Department of Motor Vehicles will allow you to renew your license at any time, so it is wise to do this before you leave the U.S.

Drivers must pass a written test regarding Korean traffic rules and the USFK driver's license is valid for five years. You must call ahead to schedule an appointment at either: Driver's Test Office on the Busan Storage Center (BSC), Bldg T-1335, DSN: 315-763-7779 or Transportation Office on CFAC in Chinhae, Bldg 714 (next to HQ Bldg), DSN: 315-762-5339. You will need to bring your valid U.S. driver's license to the office at the time of the test.

You can download a copy of the USFK Pam 385-2, Guide to Safe Driving in Korea from usarmy.vo.llnwd.net/e2/c/downloads/326068.pdf or 8tharmy.korea.army.mil/g1_AG/Programs_Policy/PublicationsRecords/Publications/USFK%20Pam%20385-2%20Guide%20to%20Safe%20Driving%20in%20Korea3.pdf or yongsan.korea.army.mil to learn more about the USFK policy and study for the exam.

If you plan on traveling extensively in Asia and want to drive, it is strongly suggest you visit your local AAA office to obtain an international driver's license. International licenses are available in the Republic of Korea, but it is easier to obtain one before you arrive.

The U.S. Military and the Korean government require drivers to use a "hands free" device if using a cell phone while driving. If you must take a call while driving, it is recommended you find a safe place to pull over and take the call.

Motorcycle and moped owners must complete a military Motorcycle Safety Course to receive a USFK Motorcycle or Moped License. It is recommended that you consider taking this course and get documentation before you arrive due to the limited availability of the course in the Republic of Korea.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

All E-7 and above service members are authorized to register a POV. Service members E-6 and below must receive approval from the CNFK Chief of Staff through an exception to policy letter. Only one POV and one motorcycle/moped are authorized per family for command sponsored personnel unless an exception to policy is approved.

Those service members authorized can ship one POV from their current duty station or purchase a vehicle from the local economy upon arrival in the Republic of Korea. All vehicles must pass an inspection, must be insured, and must be registered at the Vehicle Registration Office at the BSC, Bldg 1311 (DSN: 315-763-7742).

The first step to registering a vehicle is to get a temporary registration from the BSC Vehicle Registration Office. If you are shipping your POV from the U.S., it will go to the Vehicle Processing Center on Camp Henry in USAG Daegu (DSN: 315-768-8381). You must take your temporary registration with you to pickup your vehicle. More information about shipping your POV is available at www.whereismypov.com

After pickup, you must obtain a vehicle safety inspection from the Car Care Center at Camp Henry (DSN: 315-768-8164) in Daegu or the Vehicle Registration Office located at the BSC. Once completed, take the inspection form and the vehicle registration forms to the Vehicle Registration Office at the BSC to order your license plates.

CARS AND DRIVING

Plates can take up to one week to process and must be installed at the Vehicle Registration Office at the BSC. Vehicle registration must be completed at the BSC to comply with the Korean legal policy that requires all vehicles operated in the host nation to be registered at the local district agency.

For more information on Vehicle Registration, please see the USFK Reg 190-1 Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision at 8tharmy.korea.army.mil/g1_AG/Programs_Policy/PublicationsRecords/Regulations/USFK/USFK%20Reg%20190-1%20Motor%20Vehicle%20Traffic%20Supervision1.pdf or 8tharmy.korea.army.mil/g1_AG/Programs_Policy/Publication_Records_Reg_USFK.htm.

BUYING A CAR IN KOREA

You may be wondering whether to ship your POV from the U.S. to the Republic of Korea. If so, it might help to know that there are inexpensive local cars available. Sailors and Soldiers are PCSing throughout the year, particularly in the late spring, and are selling their cars.

Most of the cars that come on the market are older Korean models such as Hyundai Excel or Sonata. Prices vary depending on vintage and condition, but it is not hard to find a car in the \$500 to \$1,000 price range being sold on many U.S. military installations. Check the bulletin boards at the Post Exchange on USAG Daegu and Fleet & Family Town Center on CFAC or online at one of the many Facebook group pages for personal ads. All vehicles must be registered and follow the same procedure and guidelines as a shipped POV.

GASOLINE

The Busan Storage Center has a government fueling station for government vehicles and POVs. They offer diesel and standard grade gasoline, but payment must be made in U.S. dollars.

Additionally, there is a government fueling station on CFAC in Chinhae. They offer diesel and standard grade gasoline at the set government rate for government vehicles and POVs. All SOFA personnel stationed in Chinhae and Busan are issued electronic fuel keys and are able to fill up in Chinhae. Vehicle registration and military ID card is needed to get a gas key and the gas station attendant will have additional paperwork that needs to be completed. Fuel bills are issued on a monthly basis and U.S. dollars are the only accepted form of payment. If you have any questions, you can contact the station at DSN: 315-762-5524. The closest AAFES Gas Station is located at Camp Walker on USAG Daegu. You must present your military ID card and Ration Control Card before you fill up your tank.

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.

CAR REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

Busan is a large city with a lot of automobiles and traffic. There is an abundance of local mechanics, who are experienced with many makes and models for car repair and maintenance. Please check with your sponsor to get recommendations and referrals for your car.

The closest military auto care center is the Car Care Center at Camp Henry (DSN: 315-768-8164) on USAG Daegu in Daegu. Additionally, there is a Car Care Center at USAG Yongsan in Seoul (DSN: 315-724-6037).



LEGAL MATTERS

LEGAL MATTERS

PASSPORTS

All foreign civilians must have a valid passport to enter the Republic of Korea. Additionally, unless they are coming for just a short visit (less than 90 days), your family members and dependents will also need to have an A-3 visa and a SOFA stamp.

As per the Foreign Clearance Guide, a blue no-fee passport is required for dependents coming to the Republic of Korea. Contact your local personnel office for the proper forms and information. The processing time is generally between 6 and 8 weeks in CONUS, so begin the process as soon as orders for command-sponsored dependents are approved.

The exact opposite is true for a service member. Military service members are not allowed to get a no-fee passport because they can enter the country with a military ID card and orders. However, if a military member has one, they can use their red official government passport to enter the country as well.

For more information about the Foreign Clearance Guide for the Republic of Korea, please see the website at www.fcg.pentagon.mil.

Each person in the family (to include the military member) is encouraged to have a blue U.S. tourist passport as well. All personal travel outside of the Republic of Korea requires a tourist passport for both the service member and their dependents. Government passports are used for official travel only.

Family members may also choose to travel to Korea with their tourist passport instead of a no-fee government passport to avoid having two passports for travel. You may have both a valid tourist passport and a valid no-fee passport at the same time.

If your passport expires or you need to get a new passport while in the Republic of Korea, you can apply for one through the U.S. Embassy based in Seoul. Passport services are available everyday by appointment only at the embassy.

For more information on American Citizens Services offered by the U.S. Embassies in the Republic of Korea, please see the website at seoul.usembassy.gov/acs_us_passports.html.

Services provided include:

- Official and no-fee passport applications
- Tourist passport applications.
 - *New and renewals. Renewal's applications submitted overseas must be processed through the U.S. Embassy.
- Consular Reports of Birth Abroad (CRBA) for children born in Korea to American citizens.

For more information on U.S. Embassy services visit <http://seoul.usembassy.gov/> and <https://www.facebook.com/usembassyseoul>

Additionally, the U.S. Embassy staff in conjunction with the 8th Army Office of the Staff Judge Advocate's Client Legal Services office offers passport services once a week in Bldg 4106 on USAG Yongsan at DSN: 315-738-8111. You can find information on the process and forms under Legal Services at 8tharmy.korea.army.mil/sja/clientlegalsvc/.

Finally, there is an American Presence Post in Busan, but passport services are limited. Please call COMM 02-397-4114 to make an appointment or see their website at busan.usconsulate.gov/citizen_service.html.

A-3 AND SOFA STAMP

The A-3 visa is a stamp in your passport entitling you to stay in the Republic of Korea for an extended period (normally up to 24 months), and to leave and enter the country multiple times. Unless the A-3 visa is applied for in advance, dependents typically receive a tourist visa upon arrival in the Republic of Korea.

LEGAL MATTERS

The Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) is an international agreement between the United States and the Republic of Korea that defines the legal position of U.S. Forces in the host nation. Civilians covered by SOFA (including family members) must apply to have their passport validated with a SOFA stamp after their arrival in the Republic of Korea. It is NOT automatic and cannot be issued at the airport.

If you are a US citizen, you do not need to apply for an A-3 visa prior to coming to Korea. Additionally, you cannot obtain a SOFA Stamp prior to coming to Korea. All dependents regardless of sponsorship status or age need to obtain a SOFA stamp and A-3 visa within 90 days of arrival in the Republic of Korea. Both are valid for two years and need to be reissued if they expire while you are stationed in the Republic of Korea.

People who overstay their visas are violating the Republic of Korea's immigration regulations. This will become apparent at the airport immigration counter when they fly home, if not sooner. The problems encountered there can range from substantial delays as their passport is scrutinized to large monetary fines.

You can find information on the process and forms under Legal Services at 8tharmy.korea.army.mil/sja/clientlegalsvc/. The staff at the Busan Storage Center, Bldg S-1311, 2nd Floor, Rm. 203 (DSN: 315-763-7797) will review your application and take it to the Korean Immigration Office in Jungang-dong, Jung-gu, Busan for processing.

Further information, regarding visas for the Republic of Korea, is available from the Korean Embassy in Washington, D.C. at 202-939-5660 or on their web at usa.mofa.go.kr.

For more information on SOFA, please see the U.S. Forces Korea website at www.usfk.mil/usfk/sofa.the.sofa.and.you.360.

DEFENSE BIOMETRIC IDENTIFICATION DATA SYSTEM (DBIDS)

All U.S. military installations in the Republic of Korea are access controlled. Access is restricted to personnel that reside on or have official authorization to enter a U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) Installation or Base.

The staff at the Busan Storage Center, Bldg S-1311, 2nd Floor, Rm. 203 (DSN: 315-763-7742) is responsible for registering service members stationed in Busan and their dependents over the age of ten in Defense Biometric Identification Data System (DBIDS) for access to U.S. installations. Additionally, the Pass and ID Office in the Security Department at CFAC in Chinhae (DSN: 315-762-5296) can process personnel into DBIDS as well as the Pass and ID Office on Camp Henry at USAG Daegu (DSN: 315-768-7387).

The service member sponsor must be in the system before dependent family members can be enrolled. Each person to be registered must have their military ID card and be physically present as a photo and fingerprint will be taken. You need to be registered in DBIDS before you can register your vehicle or receive your ration control card.

All family members, including dependents under the age of ten, must be registered in DBIDS to be counted towards a family size for the monthly commissary dollar spending limit. Once individuals register in DBIDS, they will automatically be registered in the USFK ration control database, but still must visit an issuing agent office to request ration control cards.

LEGAL MATTERS

The Vehicle Registration Office at BSC will issue a bar-coded DBIDS vehicle registration decal to all vehicles that are authorized access and operation on U.S. military installations in the Republic of Korea. DBIDS vehicle registration decals will be affixed in the lower left-hand (driver's side) corner of the vehicle windshield. Registrars will record the registration information in DBIDS and issue and place the appropriate vehicle registration decal. Vehicles properly registered and displaying a USFK vehicle registration decal may be granted access to authorized U.S. military installations.

For more information on DBIDS, see the USFK Reg 190-7 Installation Access Control at 8tharmy.korea.army.mil/g1_AG/Programs_Policy/PublicationsRecords/Regulations/USFK/USFK%20Reg%20190-7%20Installation%20Access%20Control%202014.pdf or 8tharmy.korea.army.mil/g1_AG/Programs_Policy/Publication_Records_Reg_USFK.htm

ROK BASE ACCESS

All Republic of Korea (ROK) military installations are access controlled. Access is restricted to personnel that reside on or have official authorization to enter a ROK Installation or Base, including the ROK Naval Operations Base Busan.

If you need access to the ROK Naval Operations Base Busan, please contact the CNFK Det Busan Admin Officer at DSN: 315-763-3721 for the proper procedures to access the base. U.S. service members and their families stationed in Busan and those working on the ROK naval base will have to apply for an access pass.

RATION CONTROL

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 SOFA personnel. Black Marketing is the illegal sale of those goods into the Korean economy. This practice can be cause for severe disciplinary action. The ration control program exists in order to prevent black marketing: the sale or transfer of duty-free goods to unauthorized persons.

All dependents, over the age of ten, can be issued a ration control plate (RCP) or card, which must be presented when making purchases at the Commissary, Post Exchange, Class Six store, and elsewhere on U.S. military installations. Be aware that you must present your military ID card and RCP to enter many of the Post Exchanges and Commissaries. Therefore, visitors and dependents without a RCP will not be able to "window shop" at these stores even if escorted by their service member sponsor. Active Duty Military members may enter and purchase items at any time by showing their ID card, which serves as their RCP.

During the first two weeks in country, a service member's orders with family members names printed on them may be used for access and purchasing duty free goods on all U.S. military installations.

To receive a RCP, you and your dependents must first be entered into DBIDS and DEERS. It can take anywhere from 2 to 4 hours after updating DBIDS before the ration control office can process your request for a ration control card in their system.

The service member sponsor must accompany all family members to the Ration Control with their military ID cards and PCS orders.

LEGAL MATTERS

The staff at the Busan Storage Center, Bldg S-1311, 2nd Floor (DSN: 315-763-7797) can help you fill out the paperwork for RCPs for dependents over the age of ten. The paperwork is then sent up to USAG Yongsan for processing once a week. You will receive a temporary card until the permanent one is ready, usually within 10 days.

Additionally, the Admin Office at CFAC HQ in Chinhae (DSN: 315-762-5310) can process applications as well as issue permanent RCPs within the same day.

The Ration Control Office on Camp Henry at USAG Daegu (DSN: 315-768-7518) is also an option. However, all spouses must first attend an orientation class from the Army Community Services (ACS), only offered twice a month, before they can be issued a permanent RCP from that office.

As part of the ration control program, certain goods may be only be purchased in limited quantities:

- Alcohol
- Cigarettes
- Diamonds and diamond jewelry
- Watches costing above \$200
- Cosmetics costing above \$50
- Perfume costing above \$50
- Furniture costing above \$200
- Large appliances
- Color TV's and monitors above 27"
- Computer hardware (including monitors, hard drives, printers)

For a complete list on limited goods and more information the Ration Control Program, see the USFK website at www.usfk.mil/usfk/hot-topic.usfk.ration.control.program.664 and pimsk.korea.army.mil

Remember, you may not purchase duty free items in excess of your immediate family needs. Many products are considered illegal for gift giving to Korean Nationals. For more information regarding the sale of controlled items or gifts to personnel not authorized duty free import privileges, see USFK Reg 643-2 Transfers of Duty-Free Items and USFK Reg 60-1 Ration Control Policy – Access to Duty Free Goods at

8tharmy.korea.army.mil/g1_AG/Programs_Policy/PublicationsRecords/Regulations/USFK/USFK%20Reg%2060-1%20Ration%20Control%20Policy%20-%20Access%20to%20Duty%20Free%20Goods%20130802.pdf and [8tharmy.korea.army.mil/g1_AG/Programs_Policy/Publication_Records_Reg_USFK.htm](http://8tharmy.korea.army.mil/g1_AG/Programs_Policy/PublicationsRecords/Regulations/USFK/USFK%20REG%20643-2%20TRANSFERS%20OF%20DUTY%20FREE%20ITEMS%20JUL%202014.pdf)

NONCOMBATANT EVACUATION OPERATIONS (NEO)

Due to the precarious nature of relations between North and South Korea, U.S. citizens residing here must be prepared to evacuate on short notice during a crisis. The USFK holds readiness drills twice a year in Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO). Participation is mandatory for all military dependents and strongly encouraged for other U.S. citizens.

Each unit has a military member, the NEO warden, who will contact you before each exercise to make sure your NEO packet (documents and emergency supplies) is in order. During the exercise, you must report to a central processing center on CFAC in Chinhae. There, you will undergo a walk-through of an evacuation, have your documents checked, and receive briefings on real emergency procedures.

LEGAL MATTERS

Service members are responsible for obtaining from your sponsor the NEO briefing packet for your entire family within the first 30 days after arrival.

For more information on NEO, please see the USFK Pam 600-300 Non-Combatant Emergency Evacuation Instructions at 8tharmy.korea.army.mil/g1_AG/Programs_Policy/PublicationsRecords/Publications/USFK%20PAM%20600-300%20Non-Combatant%20Emergency%20Evacuation%20Instructions062413.pdf or the websites at www.usfk.mil/usfk/link.neo.noncombatant.evacuation.operations.110 and 8tharmy.korea.army.mil/NEO/Neo.asp.

ALIEN REGISTRATION CARD

An Alien Registration Card (ARC) is NOT required for any individual covered under the SOFA, which includes service members and their dependents. However, an ARC number serves in place of a Korean Social Security number, which is needed to apply for many services on the Korean economy.

For example, an ARC will allow you to buy a Korean cell phone and service plan from a local Korean vendor instead of from one of the vendors on the U.S. military installations. Additionally, it would allow you to apply for a Korean credit card or to register online for services from Korean websites. Finally, an ARC can be helpful when registering for Korean community events such as marathons and fun runs.

You can go your whole tour in the Republic of Korea without getting an ARC, but it does open up more options and makes things easier when purchasing on the Korean economy.

The staff at the Busan Storage Center, Bldg S-1311, 2nd Floor, Rm. 203 (DSN: 315-763-7797) will help you fill out and review your application. However, you must personally take it to the Korean Immigration Office in Jungang-dong, Jung-gu, Busan for processing.

For more information on an Alien Registration Card, please see the website at www.immigration.go.kr/HP/IMM80/imm_04/imm_0405/imm_405010.jsp

BANKING AND ATMS

While Korea is much more of a cash-based society than the U.S., American credit cards are still widely accepted at most businesses and restaurants. However, it is recommended that if you don't normally carry cash, you get used to having some Korean won on hand at all times.

Nearly all ATM machines have an English option to their menu. If you are using an American debit card, you must look for an ATM machine that has a logo or sticker saying "Global ATM". They can usually be found in bank lobbies or tourist areas. Most ATM machines turn off for the night typically after 10 pm, so it is best to take out enough money at the start of the night.

Most Korean banks have a currency exchange section and ATMs that can be used to withdraw money from an international or American debit card. Banks in Korea are typically open from 9 am until 4 pm. The lobby area is usually open from 8 am until 10 pm, but this changes depending on the bank and location. Some banks run a special service where they are open at the weekends or 24 hours a day.

If you want to setup automatic payments to pay for things like your rent or internet service, it can be helpful but not required to have a local bank account in Korea. There are several major Bank chains in Korea, so check on the options that each bank has to offer or get a recommendation from your sponsor before you choose.

Before you visit the bank to setup an account, you be sure to bring your military ID card, passport and/or alien registration card as well as know your home address in Korean. You do not need to speak Korean when opening a bank account, but it helps to understand some of the basics. In almost every bank, you can usually find one person who can speak basic English.

LEGAL MATTERS

A-3 VISA AND EMPLOYMENT

Dependents and family members in the Republic of Korea under an A-3 visa are not entitled to work for pay on the Korean economy without an additional authorization from the Korean government. Before 2001, A-3 visa holders were not entitled to work on the Korean economy at all, but changes to the SOFA made under a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. and ROK governments has opened some options for dependents to obtain a work permit without surrendering their A-3 visa status. Dependents in Korea under A-3 visa status have three options for employment in the Republic of Korea.

VOLUNTEER WORK

In order to gain experience, build a resume, and to provide vital services to the community, dependents under A-3 visa status may get involved in volunteer work. This work may include teaching English, community service, and a variety of other interesting and exciting opportunities.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, contact the Army Community Service center in Bldg 1103 on Camp Henry on USAG Daegu at DSN: 315-768-7112.

U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATION EMPLOYMENT

While the closest large U.S. military installations are at USAG Daegu and CFAC in Chinhae, there are smaller installations at Busan Storage Center and Pier 8 in Busan. Certain paid employment positions on U.S. military installations are reserved for Korean National (KN) employees.

However, not all positions are reserved. Thus, employment opportunities remain in U.S. federal civil service, non-appropriated fund instrumentality (i.e., AAFES) and other on-post organizations. Please see the following sites for more information on employment on U.S. military installations.

- U.S. Army Civilian Human Resources Agency Korea Region
This site contains useful links to various Korea-related employment resources, AAFES, DoDDS, etc.
chra-fe.korea.army.mil/chra/main/ or cpoc-www.korea.army.mil
- U.S. Army Civilian Vacancy Announcement Board
Search for U.S. Army Civilian Jobs in the Republic of Korea, by scrolling down the page and select "Republic of Korea" from the Countries and U.S. Territories list.
www.armycivilianservice.com
- USA Jobs
Search the official job site of the U.S. Federal Government for all available jobs in the Republic of Korea
www.usajobs.gov
- U.S. Army Civilian Personnel On-Line for government service employment
cpol.army.mil

PAID EMPLOYMENT ON THE KOREAN ECONOMY

Subject to the Memorandum of Understanding and to Korean law, dependents with A-3 visas may now obtain a work permit in any of eight employment categories. These categories each have a number of qualifications, which applicants must meet in order to be eligible to obtain that category of work permit.

LEGAL MATTERS

Please note that although it may seem that the Korean government tolerates work for cash payments in employment such as teaching English to individuals or small groups, this employment, without proper permission, violates Korean law. Penalties for violation of Korean immigration law may include deportation, prosecution in the Republic of Korea, fines, and levying of back taxes.

The employment categories, along with some of the important qualifications required to obtain each, are as follow:

- E-1 Teaching (Professor): This is for professors of higher education. Requirements include education and experience as a professor of higher education.
- E-2 Foreign Language Instructor: This category includes English teachers. Requirements include a bachelor's degree and/or relevant college level educational and/or work experience. Individuals applying for this permit must also be natives of a country where the language they wish to teach is the mother tongue. Proof must be provided of relevant qualifications.
- E-3 Research: This category includes those performing research in the natural sciences or in the development of industry and technology. Requirements include an invitation from a Korean public or private institution to perform work of this nature.
- E-4 Technology Instruction: A person possessing professional level knowledge in the natural sciences, or special technical skills. Requirements include an invitation from a Korean public or private institution to instruction of this nature.
- E-5 Professional Occupation: Includes foreign attorneys, accountants, and doctors certified in a foreign country and authorized under Korean law to practice in their field in Korea.
- E-6 Arts and Performance: This category includes those engaged in music, the arts, literature, modeling, or other performance activities for profit.
- E-7 Special Occupations: Include such employment as designated by the Minister of Justice, including work in translation, interpretation, cultural research, etc.
- E-8 Employed Trainee: Temporary employment for industrial training purposes.

OBTAINING A WORK PERMIT

A dependent with an A-3 visa may negotiate terms for employment with a Korean company. The employer can initiate the paperwork with the Korea Immigration Service (an agency of the R.O.K. Ministry of Justice) to obtain an employment permit for the dependent. The dependent must then visit a local immigration office and obtain an employment permit stamp on their passports.

Address and contact information for the Korea Immigration Service and local immigration offices throughout Korea can be found at www.immigration.go.kr/HP/IMM80/imm_05/imm_5040.jsp

All dependents employed on the Korean economy are subject to the withholding of Korean income taxes from their wages in the Republic of Korea.

Review all contracts with the CFAC Legal office or Army Community Services Employment Readiness staff before accepting any position. A SOFA stamp, is required before applying for a job.

All dependents planning to work on the economy should check with the U.S. Embassy at www.asktheconsul.org in advance to see what types of visas are required.

For more information about employment in Korea, please see the USFK website at www.usfk.mil/usfk/hot-topic.civilian.employment.406



PETS

PETS

PCSING WITH PETS

If you intend to ship a pet to the Republic of Korea, contact your local veterinarian to learn about specific shots and additional medical advice including breed restrictions. The export process can involve getting a health certificate, updating vaccinations, completing disease testing, and having your paperwork reviewed and endorsed by U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The Republic of Korea requires pets (including military pets/dogs) be current on their rabies vaccine (given at least 30 days prior to arrival in Korea), have an ISO-compliant microchip, receive a rabies-neutralization antibody test (0.5 IU/ml or higher), and be accompanied by a valid health certificate including government endorsement.

For the most current information on importing and exporting pets between the U.S. and the Republic of Korea, see the U.S. Department of Agriculture website at www.aphis.usda.gov

The Quarantine Inspection Agency determines if your pet meets all requirements for entry into the Republic of Korea. For official information on quarantine, please see the website at www.qia.go.kr/english/html/Animal_livestock/02/AnimalLivestock_007-8.jsp.

Many Koreans own small dogs or cats, and they are commonly seen on the streets and in apartment buildings (usually dressed in the latest seasonal fashion). Large dogs are rare in Korea, but some U.S. Sailors have large breed dogs in Busan. Housing restrictions for pets are entirely at the discretion of the landlord and apartment complex. There are many options for local veterinarians and pet care, please ask your sponsor for references and recommendations.

Finally, make sure that bringing your pet to the Republic of Korea is what is best for you, your family and your pet.

VETERINARY SERVICES

The closest U.S. military Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) is located at Camp Walker in USAG Daegu, 1.5 hr drive away. The Veterinary Clinic (DSN: 315-764-4858) provides routine and urgent medical care for pets. The clinic also has a stray animal facility that can help you to adopt a healthy pet. For more information, please see their website at phc.amedd.army.mil/organization/Pages/VtfDetails.aspx?VtfID=162&loc=Korea .

The main U.S. military veterinary clinic for the Korean Peninsula is located at USAG Yongsan in Seoul (DSN: 315-737-2450). For more information, please see their website at phc.amedd.army.mil/organization/Pages/VtfDetails.aspx?VtfID=154&loc=Korea .

The 106th Medical Detachment Veterinary Service Support makes periodic visits to CFAC in Chinhae. Veterinary visits are coordinated through the Medical Clinic.

Please visit the 106th Medical Detachment Veterinary Service Support at www.korea.amedd.army.mil/veterinary/index.html for comprehensive information about Veterinary Services provided in Korea.

There are no U.S. military pet boarding kennels available in Busan. This service is available at the USAG Yongsan's Pet Care Center in Seoul at DSN: 315-736-6426 and the Osan Boarding Kennel on Osan Air Force Base in Osan at DSN: 315-784-4314. For more information, please see the Yongsan Pet Care Center website at www.facebook.com/YSPCC and the Osan Boarding Kennel website at www.51fss.com/kennel.htm.

INSTALLATION PET POLICY

U.S. military installation regulation states that all animals must be on a leash at all times when outdoors. Verbal control is insufficient. It is always the owner's responsibility to control the animal, not the citizen's responsibility to avoid the animal.

PETS

Animal bites will be reported to the nearest Medical Treatment Facility. Animals involved in the bite incident will be required to undergo a 10 day quarantine which may be at home and is at the U.S. military installation veterinarian's discretion. Animals involved in more than one bite, or animals involved in a serious bite incident may be banned from U.S. military installations. It is your responsibility as a pet owner to keep your pet's vaccinations current and up to date. Pet owners are responsible for picking up and properly disposing of animal wastes no matter where they are on the installation.

During NEO, USFK will make reasonable efforts to evacuate pets of service members but pets are likely to be separated from their families during an evacuation. The evacuation of people takes priority over pets. Only two pets per household are authorized transport in the event of a NEO. Pets are registered and tracked by the NEO Tracking System, which helps reunite pets with their families. All unaccompanied pet owners need to ensure they have a pet care plan.

IMPORTING PETS

The cost of transporting your pet to your new duty station is your responsibility. If you are bringing pets to Korea, you must travel via commercial airline. AMC flights cannot transport pets into Korea.

Airline regulations regarding transport of animals tend to change, so confirm the recent regulations with your airline before you travel. The best method of transport is to have your pet accompany you on your flight to Korea. If your pet flies separately, the cost to you could become expensive depending on the services needed.

There are restrictions for pet travel into Korea during the months of May till September, due to extreme temperature, unless the pet travels inside the cabin of the plane. Ask your airline for exceptions to the policy. Remember for international flights, you need an International Pet Carrier that is the appropriate size for your pet.

EXPORTING PETS

To leave the Republic of Korea, by Korean law, all dogs and cats must have proof of a rabies vaccination within the last year (not sooner than 30 days), a U.S. health certificate (from your military veterinarian) issued within 10 days of departure, and a Korean health certificate, preferably on the day of departure. The Korean health certificate may be obtained up to three days prior to departure and is issued from a Korean veterinarian.

For the most current information on returning with your pet, please see the U.S. Department of State website on Pets and International Travel at www.state.gov/m/fsi/tc/c10442.htm or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website on bringing a pet to the U.S. www.cdc.gov/animalimportation/bringinganimaltoaus.html or the U.S. Department of Agriculture website at www.aphis.usda.gov

Currently, the Air Mobility Command Passenger Terminal at Osan is authorized to ship pets on outbound movements for those in PCS status only.

For the most current information, please see the USFK website at www.usfk.mil/usfk/hot-topic.patriot.express.470 and the AMC Pet Brochure at www.osan.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-140826-001.pdf



THINGS TO DO

THINGS TO DO

DINING IN BUSAN

Busan, as a coastal city, is well known for fresh seafood. There are dishes you should try in Busan that are not typically available in other parts of Korea.

- Dong-nae pajeon is a seafood and green onion pancake, an affordable and popular Busan dish.
- Daegu Tang is a delicious flaky cod soup with vegetables.
- Bokguk is a soup made with pufferfish, the type that is extremely poisonous.

Korean food can be an acquired taste. Some people never get used to it while others quickly become addicted. Many dishes are flavored with ground chili pepper, which grows in abundance here.

A Korean meal typically consists of rice, soup, and a number of small vegetarian dishes such as spinach, bean sprouts, and tofu. Beef and pork are very popular and are often marinated and grilled at the table (Bulgogi and Kalbi). Soy sauce, soybean paste, red pepper paste, ginger root, garlic, sesame oil, and sesame seeds are other seasonings, which are essential to Korean food. For those who like vinegar and spice, Kimchi is a highly seasoned pickled cabbage or turnip side dish served at most every meal.

Even if you are used to eating with chopsticks, you may find the Korean version a challenge, as they are very thin, made of steel and quite slippery. Another change for Americans is being seated on cushions on the floor around low tables. Floors are warm and cozy thanks to the in floor heating system and are very clean since guests leave their shoes at the door.

Some other common Korean dishes are as follows:

- Barbecued Beef (Bulgogi) – Beef marinated in soy sauce, sesame oil, garlic pepper and green onions, which are cooked at your table.
- Broiled Beef Ribs (Kalbi Kui) – Beef Ribs cooked over charcoal.
- Pepper Pot Soup (Maeun Tang) – Boiled fish and vegetables seasoned with red pepper sauce and soy sauce. It is a very spicy dish.
- Bean Paste Soup (Twanchang Chikae) – A rich stew of clams, beef, zucchini, carrots, and white radish with bean paste.
- Beef Rice Soup (Sollong Tang) – A beef soup served with rice and seasoned with black pepper, salt and chopped leeks.
- Ginseng Chicken Soup (Sam Kye Tang) – Chicken stuffed with glutinous rice, ginseng, and dried jujubes.
- Kimchi Stew (Kimchi Chikae) – A rich stew of kimchi, pork and bean curd.
- Hand-made Noodles (Kalkuksu) – Hand-made chopped noodles with clam or chicken broth.
- Buck Noodles (Naeng Myon) – Cold potato flour or buckwheat flour noodles topped with sliced meat, vegetables, a boiled egg and pepper relish sauce.

Virtually any type of food imaginable is available in Busan. Prices vary according to the type of food ordered and the area of town in which you dine. 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.

THINGS TO DO

Most restaurants have menus displayed outside that show pictures and prices of food. As with any nice restaurant around the world, many of the fine restaurants in Busan 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 (although many Koreans know the basics of English). If you cannot speak Korean, communication can be difficult, so be patient and/or learn the phrases you need to get by when ordering food. 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, as is often required in traditional Korean restaurants.

As in the Western countries, the Republic of Korea's coffee culture has skyrocketed in the past few years. It is easy to find Western chain cafes such as Starbucks. Along with Western chain cafes, there are many Korean and other chains such as Cafe Bene, 'Angel in us', and Tom and Toms which serve coffee.

Be it restaurant, street food or café, Busan has a wide variety of food for everyone to enjoy.

For more information on food options in Busan, please see the websites at koreabridge.net/busan/food or busanhaps.com/category/dine-drink/restaurants-cafes

SHOPPING IN BUSAN

The Republic of Korea is justly famous for its shopping. With its large textile and apparel industry, great bargains are available to those who know where to look. Some of the products our host nation is most known for are: amethyst, jade, ginseng, soju, hanbok, celadon pottery, Kimchi pots, and plenty of clothing, both ready-to-wear and tailor-made.

Busan's dinnerware is unique to the Southern region and unlike any found in the capital city of Seoul. Also, thanks to Japanese influence in their products, lovely traditional goods are available.

You can negotiate the price of most articles, especially in small shops and at the outdoor markets. Carry a calculator so you and the salesperson can at least communicate in numbers. Even in large department stores, prices are not necessarily set in stone – sometimes clerks will offer a “discount.” If you are planning to purchase an expensive item, it's good to have a native speaker along to help with the negotiations. As a courtesy to the merchant, never bargain over something you have no intention of buying.

There are no dressing rooms at the big markets, so wear a tank top that you can slip clothes over and leave your modesty at home. Small shopkeepers don't always make returns or exchanges, so be sure the item has no defects before purchasing it. This is even true for stores on U.S. military installations. Seasonal items are generally put out ahead of what you expect in the U.S. and can quickly sell out.

Shopping bags are not free at grocery and some department stores, but for a few cents, you can buy bags for what you need. It's best to come prepared with some sturdy bags or a rolling cart if you plan to make many purchases. Additionally many stores offer an area to box your own purchases at no cost.

It is best to always know the exchange rate between U.S. dollars and Korean won before you shop. Most of the smaller shops and markets take Korean won in cash only. If you are not used to paying in cash, be aware that most of the major Korean stores do take American credit cards. However, you may be charged a transaction or additional fee by your bank to change the currency from Korean won to U.S. dollars. It is recommended that you consult your bank about ways to avoid the international transaction fees that most credit cards charge. Many U.S. banks can issue international credit cards that do not have this fee.

THINGS TO DO

The best way to begin your shopping spree is to first go to the Tourist Information Center in Busan, since they will have plenty of information on where to go and how to get there. However, be aware that in many parts of Busan, tourist information centers are not as widely available as they are in Seoul.

For more information on shopping in Busan, please see the website at busanhaps.com/category/lifestyle/shopping-home-living/

TYPICAL KOREAN SOUVENIRS

C1 - Busan's Preferred Soju

Like wine, the characteristics of Korean liquor (soju) vary from one region to another. Every locality has its own brand, each preserving the unique traditional flavor. For those who have a preference for Korean soju, Busan's C1 is a recommended item. A well-known alcoholic beverage is Cheonnyeonyaksok (A Thousand Years), which comes from a different area of Gyeongnam. It gained an international reputation after being selected as the official drink for celebration toasts at the 2005 APEC Summit held in Busan.

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.

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.

Jewelry

Like most of Asia, the beautiful craftsmanship in the Republic of Korea makes jewelry very tempting buys. As in the U.S., deal with a reputable merchant if you plan on purchasing precious stones and metals. 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 Southeast Asian countries. When purchasing expensive jewelry, ask for certificates of authenticity and carefully inspect all merchandise.

Kimchi Pots

Kimchi pots make nice decorative crocks. If you are thinking of buying a brown-ware kimchi pot, there are many places to buy them. They can be found at various vendors throughout the city and at the pottery villages. Spouses have been known to find a "defective" kimchi pot (one that cannot be used to actually prepare kimchi) for less than 20,000 won in the pottery villages.

Celadon Pottery

This unique 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. For more information, please see the website at eng.gangjiinfes.or.kr/.

THINGS TO DO

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Busan is located on the southeastern tip of the Korean peninsula. The city's geography includes a coastline with superb beaches and scenic cliffs, mountains which provide excellent hiking and extraordinary views, and hot springs scattered throughout the city. Busan enjoys four distinct seasons and a temperate climate that never gets too hot or too cold.

Its deep harbor and gentle tides have allowed it to grow into the largest container handling port in the country and the fifth largest in the world. The city's natural endowments and rich history have resulted in Busan's increasing reputation as a world-class city of tourism and culture, and it is also becoming renowned as an international convention destination.

The city of Busan is divided into 16 districts or "gu."

- Buk-gu is in the north and has Seokbalsa, a Buddhist temple built into the mountain.
- Busanjin-gu is a central district, and contains the Busan Citizen's Park and the area of Seomyeon, which has an active night life with lots of street food.
- Dong-gu
- Dongnae-gu, in the north, is famous for the Heosimcheong spa, reputed to be Asia's largest.
- Gangseo-gu is in the west, and contains Busan's airport (Gimhae) as well as the Eulsukdo bird sanctuary.
- Geumjeong-gu is a sparsely populated district in the north, home to the Beomeosa temple and Geumjeong Mountain Fortress.
- Haeundae-gu in the east is an affluent, beach front community that attracts tens of thousands of Korean tourists and foreigners to what many consider to be Korea's best beach. Many attractions can be found here including the Busan Aquarium, Diamond Bridge and Nurimaru on Dongbaek Island.
- Jung-gu contains the Busan Tower, Jagalchi Fish Market, Nampodong International Market and Dalmaji Hill.
- Nam-gu is in the south and contains the Oryukdo islets. This part of the city is well known with young travelers who wants to explore the nightlife. There are two big universities located here: Kyungsoong University and Pukyong National University.
- Saha-gu
- Sasang-gu in central Busan is the location of the Seobu intercity bus station.
- Seo-gu
- Suyeong-gu is a central district and the location of Gwangalli Beach as well as the impressive Gwangan Bridge.
- Yeongdo-gu is located in the south and has the Taejongdae Park.
- Yeonje-gu
- Gijang-gun has the Busan Haedong Yonggungsa Temple, located on top of a huge rock on the coast.

For more information, on things to see in Busan, please see the websites at english.busan.go.kr/HomeMain.do and etour.busan.go.kr/index.busan and busanhaps.com/touristattractions/ and www.citytourbusan.com/en2/00main/main.php and www.exploringkorea.com/busan-travel-guide/ .

TRANSPORTATION



TRANSPORTATION

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Busan is a logistics hub city of Northeast Asia, located on some of the world's busiest sea routes. Various transportation systems - by air, sea, and land - have now been expanded and developed to a top-notch standard.

The local public transportation system provides prompt and efficient metro, bus and taxi services. There are a total of four metro lines, 133 bus routes and about 25,000 private and corporate taxis providing taxi services 24 hours a day. Taxis in Busan have also provided telephone interpretation services for the convenience of foreign visitors since May 2002.

The Busan Transportation Card or Cash-Bee Card is a very useful travel card system that can be used on:

- Subway
- Light rail (e.g. to the airport)
- Taxis
- Local buses
- Local road toll ways (Such as Gwangalli Bridge)

The physical card itself costs 3,000 - 8,000 won and then you can buy and put money on the card using kiosks in almost every subway station. Additionally, most convenience stores allow you to recharge your card.

Also, you can also buy "cell phone jewelry" which has the exact same RFID as the Transportation Card, and can be used the same way. Prices for these vary, and they come in innumerable designs.

Seoul T-money cards can also be used for the buses and subway in Busan but can't be recharged at the machines in subway stations. Many national convenience store chains such as GS25 and C4U can do so, or the card can be charged in other areas of Korea.

For more information on getting around in Busan, please see the websites at english.busan.go.kr/SubPage.do?pageid=sub0401 and busanhaps.com/transportation/

SUBWAY LINES

Busan has a very clean, cheap and inexpensive subway system, which covers most of the metropolitan area. Both signage and announcements are in English so finding your way is easy. There are four lines serving the city.

- Line 1 (Red) Sinpyeong through Nopo-dong
- Line 2 (Green) Yangsan through Jangsan
- Line 3 (Brown) Daejeo through Suyeong
- Line 4 (Blue) Minam through Ahn Pyung village, Gijang

The subways run from 05:10 a.m. through 12:45 a.m. Tickets can be bought for purchase at the ticket vending machines. The standard fee is between 1,100 won and 1,300 won depending on the length of the trip. Korean seniors over 65 ride free, and there are discounts for elementary school students.

Subway cars have specially designated seats for elderly, disabled and pregnant passengers. You can sit in them as long as you are prepared to give up your seat to someone who needs.

Using the Busan Transportation Card will save you some money in the subway. The minimum subway fare is reduced from 1,300 to 1,200 won (you will still pay the 200 won difference for length of travel).

Furthermore, when you "scan out" from a subway and "scan in" to a bus within 30 minutes then the bus fare is reduced to 250 won.

There is an additional Purple line (Gimhae Light Railway) that connects the Airport and the West of Busan to the subway network. The fares are not integrated.

TRANSPORTATION

For more information on the Busan subway, please see the websites at www.subway.busan.kr/english/main/ and www.humetro.busan.kr/english/03/01_01.php and www.exploringkorea.com/busan-subway-guide/ .

BUS LINES

Busan has a good and comprehensive bus system. However, the ride on the bus can be very bumpy on Busan's hills, and at rush hour you may find yourself standing up for a long journey swaying about the whole time.

The front of the bus has the destination displayed in Korean, English and Japanese, although on the bus there will be no English route maps whatsoever.

The front seats of the bus have yellow seat covers, which mean they are designated for elderly people. You are allowed to sit as long as you give it up when an elderly person boards.

The standard bus fare is from 1,300 to 1,900 won depending on the bus type: city versus express.

Using the Transportation Card will save you some money. A local bus is reduced from 1,300 to 1,200 won. When leaving a bus you can 'scan out' in order to have a discounted fare when you board another bus within 30 minutes.

For more information on the Busan Bus system, please see the websites at www.kobus.co.kr/web/eng/index.jsp and www.bustago.or.kr/weben/index.jsp and www.exploringkorea.com/busan-bus-guide/ .

TAXIS

Taxis in the Republic of Korea are generally very inexpensive. Though they sometimes drive quite aggressively, they are clean and reliable as well as being very well-equipped with navigation systems.

Most taxi drivers do not speak English, so if you can show the name in Korean of your destination it will help a lot. In Busan almost all taxi drivers are friendly towards foreigners, although they often assume that a foreigner wants to go a long distance (such as to the airport).

The standard fare for a regular taxi starts at 2,800 won for the first two kilometers, and then the meter starts ticking at 100 won for each 143m or every 34 seconds if the taxi is going under 15 kph. Fares increase 20% between midnight and 4 a.m.

Deluxe "mobeom" taxis charge 4,500 won for the first 3km and then 200 won for each 160m or 38 seconds. Fares increase 20% between midnight and 4 a.m. The deluxe taxi is black and has a yellow sign on top. What they mean by deluxe is the car is more comfortable and has a bigger trunk. Additionally, they take credit cards (as do regular taxis), offer many different services and the drivers have a clean driving record and experience. This comes at a price, as it is double the fare of a general taxi.

You can use the Busan Transportation Card to pay for taxis as well. However, there is no discount on the fare.

There are a few unscrupulous taxis that may attempt to charge much higher fixed fares (as much as 20,000 won) in some areas such as around Busan Port. Insist on the meter and take a different taxi if your driver refuses to use it.

For more information on taxis in Busan, please see the website at www.exploringkorea.com/taxis-in-busan/.

TRANSPORTATION

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

Busan is very well connected on the Korean rail network and a main hub for the fast and efficient Korea Train Express (KTX) trains.

Busan has six train stations:

- Busan station
- Kupo station
- Haeundae station
- Songjeong station
- Busanjin station
- Bujeon station

Busan station, located in Choryang, is by far the largest and serves as the regional hub of Busan.

KTX trains connect Seoul to Busan via Daegu and Daejeon. Journey times can vary between 120 to 150 min and cost around 53,300 won. Tickets can be purchased at the counter but automated English-language machines are available to make purchases with too. Tickets can also be purchased on the internet at www.letskorail.com/ebizbf/EbizBfTicketSearch.do with an international credit card and picked up at the station. This is very useful when planning to travel at peak times, as all tickets can quickly sell out.

KTX passengers are expected to be quiet but this is not always the case. First-class provides a more comfortable seat and the upgrade can be purchased en route or at the ticket counter. Snacks can be purchased on the trains using the vending machines or from an attendant.

Other trains, such as Saemaeul and Mugunghwa, connect Busan with other major cities as well. They're cheaper but slower than KTX.

The Busan Gimhae Light Rail (Purple) line meets up with both the Brown (3) and Green (2) Metro lines. The light rail provides a convenient way for transiting to Busan (Gimhae) International Airport. Apart from the airport and Gimhae town, there are not many places of interest on this line.

The light rail ticketing is not integrated with the Busan Metro, and therefore a separate ticket is required to change between them. However, the Busan Transportation Card can still be used to pay for light rail tickets.

AIR TRANSPORTATION

Busan's International Gimhae Airport is situated outside Busan and is the third most important airport in Korea. There are separate Domestic and International terminals next to each other, each with basic facilities and food outlets.

There are a growing number of international flights at Gimhae International Airport, which currently handles 472 international flights a week, to and from 28 cities in 10 countries.

There is an information center on the first floor of the International terminal as well as on the first and second floors of the Domestic terminal. There are also touch screen information services on the first floor of each terminal. Additionally, the Busan Tourism Association has an information desk on the first floor of the International terminal.

There is a free airport bus shuttle for passengers to transit between the terminals, but they are close enough to walk from one to the other as well.

For more information about Gimhae airport, please see the website at www.airport.co.kr/gimhaeeng/index.do.

MARINE TRANSPORTATION

Busan has regular international ferry services to Japan. The International Ferry Terminal is located near Jungangdong where you can book tickets to Japan as well as purchase Japan Rail tickets.

TRANSPORTATION

There are 4 ferry routes to Japan:

- Tsushima island is the only part of Japan (sometimes) visible from Busan. It is known as Daemado Island in Korea. Ferries operated by Dae-a Express Shipping, carries passengers between Busan and Hitakatsu in 1 hour 40 minutes and between Busan and Izuhara in 2 hours 40 minutes.
- Fukuoka JR Kyushu's Beetle hydrofoils run five times a day and take just under 3 hours. Please note that the cost of flying from Busan is comparable to the hydrofoil. Alternatively a normal ferry takes 7 hours.
- Shimonoseki is 13 hours by overnight ferry with Kanpu Ferry.
- Osaka is even further, at 19 hours total journey time. Panstar is very comfortable and is similar to a cruise (entertainment, food, bar, spa, etc) but for a one way trip, the price varies if you book from Japan or the Republic of Korea.

For more information about ferries to Japan, please see the website at www.aferry.co.uk/busan-ferries.htm.

BIKING

Due to the mountains and valleys, Busan lacks a natural city center and is very much spread out in every direction. This means that biking as a means of commuting can be impractical unless your destination is close to home.

However, for the recreational biking enthusiast, Korea is a paradise. The Korean government and local authorities are building bike paths throughout the country. These paths are for walking and cycling only and, for the most part, they offer safe riding and a great way to get some exercise and see the country.

Biking is possible in Busan, although it is somewhat dangerous in most of the city due to the driving style found here. A few places to tryout in Busan are as follows:

- Haeundae - Start at the beach, turn right and go around Dongbaek Island and then explore the town.
- Romantic Road - Start at Haeundae beach, turn left and go to the start of Dalmaji Hill, and then along the MoonTan road at the top.
- Jungang - Explore the old town around the '40 steps', and then go to Yongdusan Park and Busan Tower.
- Centum City - Bexco, Shinsigae Shopping Mall, Busan Cinema Center and the Busan Museum of Modern Art are all located around the Centum City subway station on the Green (2) Line.

For more information on biking in Busan, please see the website at www.mapmyride.com/kr/busan-busan/ and korea.stripes.com/base-info/biking-enthusiast-provides-hints-riding-korea.

