

Fleet Activities Chinhae, Personnel Support Detachment, Chinhae, U.S. Naval Forces Korea, Seoul, Republic of South Korea

The Republic of South Korea is an important and very enjoyable port of call for the Seventh Fleet. Information about South Korea may be located on the U.S. Forces Korea Homepage: <http://www.usfk.mil/usfk/> under "Information about South Korea."

US Navy in Korea's webpage: <http://www.cnmc.navy.mil/Korea/index.htm>

There are both accompanied and unaccompanied tour areas for personnel in Korea. The Naval activities serviced by HRO Yokosuka are located in command-sponsored three-year tour areas that permit employees to bring their families at government expense and allow full access to post and base exchanges, commissary, medical care, schools and other facilities.

The provisions of the SOFA allow U.S. service members and DoD civilians to purchase goods duty-free. Along with that provision is the requirement to control the purchase of these goods. To discourage the flow of U.S. goods into the black market, a ration control system has been established. Each active duty member and civilian employee is authorized a monthly quantity limit on liquor, beer, and a monthly commissary dollar limit based on family size. The sponsor's ration control limits are based on sponsorship status and age of authorized dependents residing in their household.

Government family quarters are limited in Korea and available only to key and essential DoD civilians. Designated key personnel are assigned quarters on a mandatory basis, while other families may request to be placed on a waiting list for next available set of quarters appropriate to their family size and sponsor's rank. Personnel who are not authorized to live in government housing, or if not available, receive financial assistance with their rent and utilities. Employees are reminded to check in with the local housing referral office for assistance in locating off-post housing, and for information about the availability of 'loaner' furnishings while you wait for household goods shipment. Most real estate agents will require a finder's fee for locating housing for you.

Basic rent in the Seoul area is comparable to stateside high-rent city, and does not include utilities. Some average monthly costs for economy quarters in the Seoul area are: 2 bedroom: \$900-\$1200 Rent, \$100-\$150 Utilities; 3 bedroom: \$1050-\$2000 Rent, \$150-\$250 Utilities; 4 bedroom: \$1200-\$2500 Rent; \$170-350 Utilities. Housing costs in other areas of Korea generally are lower than in Seoul. Most rentals require one to two years' advance payment; The finance office will assist you to provide the whole amount in advance. It is very helpful to bring additional shelving storage units with shelves suitable for bathrooms, bedrooms, and storage areas. Most Korean apartments lack closets, so bring wardrobes or means-to-hand clothes.

Medical care for personnel stationed in the Seoul area is provided by the 121st US Army General Hospital. The hospital has an in-patient capacity of 75, and extensive outpatient facilities that provide medical, surgical, obstetrical, gynecological, pediatric and psychiatric care. Government-employed civilians and their family members are charged varying rates for appointments, outpatient treatment and in-patient care, depending on the services provided. Patients requiring medical care beyond the capabilities of the 121st General Hospital may be referred to accredited Korean hospitals or evacuated to other military hospitals in Japan or Hawaii. General dental services are offered by the 163rd Medical Battalion at 13 dental clinics throughout Korea. Government-employed civilians and their family members are charged variable rates for dental services depending on the services provided.

The Department of Defense Education Authority (DoDEA) schools in Korea (<http://www.korea.pac.dodea.edu/>) offer a wide range of programs to students whose parents are stationed in Korea, i.e., programs for the talented and gifted, students with disabilities, students learning English as a second language, Sure Start, and students needing special assistance in compensatory programs. Extra-curricular activities, clubs and sports give students the opportunity to enrich their school experiences and be involved in social organizations.

Legal assistance and claims services are available throughout installations in Korea. Dedicated to addressing personal legal problems, legal assistance operations also support seasonal tax assistance centers.

Military banking facilities and community banks, and U.S.A Federal Credit Union Branch Offices open to DoD civilians and their family members are located on military installations throughout Korea. These offices provide most of the services of a stateside bank/credit union including automatic teller machines.

The Military Postal System operates U.S. Postal Service Branches on almost every installation in Korea. Stamps, money orders, package mailing, and accountable mail services are available at most branches.

The Defense Commissary Agency (<http://www.commissaries.com/>) operates an efficient and cost-effective commissary system, which provides a wide selection of brand-name U.S. goods shipped directly from the states.

The AAFES (<http://www.aafes.com/>) offers a wide range of facilities throughout Korea. Most installations have a main store or branch annex carrying a selection of stateside and some Korean goods.