



# News for U.S. Military Widows in Korea

**Bad News About SBP:** If you are a non-resident alien and receive the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) from Denver, you are going to receive less money. Lawyers have decided that you must pay income tax to the U.S. government and they have started keeping 30% of the SBP money for income tax. Some widows receive only SBP, and this is really bad news for them. I have been in contact with both Denver and with the income tax people, but there is nothing more that I can do at this time.

When you receive the tax paper from Denver in January 2002, then we can prepare your income tax return for you to get that tax money back. However, you must be prepared to live with 30% less SBP in your monthly income.

**Social Security Information for Age 65 and Over:** If you receive money from Social Security then you are eligible to sign up for Medicare Part B. With Medicare Part B, you can once again be paid for any medical care you receive at Korean hospitals, the same as people who are under age 65. If you need to sign up for Medicare Part B, please contact the Retiree Activities Office (031-661-1441) and I will send you a letter to sign up for Medicare. This is only available to people who are eligible to receive Social Security benefits.

**Korean Medical Insurance and TRICARE:** If you have the Korean medical insurance and you are hospitalized, that insurance will pay 60% of your costs. If you have TRICARE, that insurance will pay the rest of the bill. This insurance is available for non-Korean citizens, so if you are a U.S. citizen, you can still obtain Korean medical insurance.

**Notary Services Reduced by Air Force Legal Offices:** When you submit a claim for benefits such as from the VA and Social Security, you must submit documents such as birth certificate, marriage certificate and death certificate. Air Force legal offices will no longer notarize copies of these documents. If you need notarized copies, you should still be able to have that done at Army legal offices. Otherwise, you will need to obtain copies from the agency that issued the original document. In this case, you will have to pay for the copies.