



News for U.S. Military Widows in Korea

1. Retiree Activities Office (RAO): The RAO is located at Osan AB in Building 936, Room 112A, behind the Base Exchange.

The office hours are 0800-1500, Monday-Friday.

The telephone number is 0333-661-1441, or 784-1441 from a military phone.

The fax number is 0333-661-3894, or 784-3894 from a military phone.

If you have e-mail, the e-mail address is retact@osan.af.mil.

A 24-hour answering machine is available. You can leave a message in English or in Korean, and please be sure to leave your name and telephone number.

The RAO is an official Air Force office, but it operates with retiree volunteers. The Osan RAO currently has a staff of two people: Jack Terwiel and his wife Chom Pun (aka Punee). We are very pleased to report that Jack Terwiel has recently received some awards. He has received the Osan AB Volunteer of the Quarter Award twice, for Oct-Dec 1998 and for Jan-Mar 1999. He also received the unit Volunteer of the Year from the squadron where he works. He received the 1999 Commander's Choice Volunteer of the Year for Osan AB. And he received the Air Force RAO Volunteer of the Year for 1998 for Osan AB.

2. Retiree Network: To assist retirees and widows, the RAO is developing a network of retirees who can assist in communicating between their location and the RAO. Following are the locations that are currently supported:

LOCATION	NAME	PHONE	MIL PHONE
Tongduchon, Camp Casey	Mr. Steve Rhoades	0351-869-1641	730-1640
Uijongbu, Camp Red Cloud	Mr. Glen Painter	0351-870-8662	732-8662
Seoul, Yongsan	Mr. Bill Horvath	02-7913-5377	723-5377
Wonju, Camp Long	Mr. John Holt	0371-738-3388	721-3388
Anjongri, Camp Humhreys	Mr. Dale Garringer	0333-691-8401	753-8401
Taegu, Camp Henry	Mr. Cris Romero	053-470-7436	768-7436
Kunsan, Kunsan AB	Mr. Bob Dunn	0654-470-5143	782-5143
Pusan, Camp Hialeah	Mr. Wayne Morris	051-801-7479	763-7479
Kwangju, Kwangju AB	Mr. Bill Sharpe	062-940-6612	786-6612

I am still trying to get retirees to serve as points of contact at Bupyong, Camp Market; at Chunchon, Camp Page; and at Waegwan, Camp Carroll.

3. U.S. Income Tax: Have you been paying U.S. income tax on your annuities? Some widows who receive social security, Survivor Benefit Plan annuity, or civil service annuity are required to pay income tax. However, if you are not a U.S. citizen and you do not live in the U.S., you may be eligible for reduced taxes.

For example, your husband served in the military for 20 years, and was outside the U.S. for 10 years. If you receive SBP as a non-citizen living outside the U.S., you are required to pay tax on only that part of the SBP earned in the U.S. In the example, you would pay tax on only 50% of the SBP, because only 50% (10 years) of your husband's pay was earned in the U.S.

You owe tax only on the money earned by your husband while he was living in the U.S. For SBP, the DD Form 214 shows the information needed to calculate the income tax reduction. For social security and civil service benefits, other proof is needed to show the number of years your husband lived and worked outside the U.S. both while in the military and as a civilian.

Finally, all VA benefits are completely exempt from income tax.

4. On-Base Schooling: If your husband died while on active duty, or within 180 days (six months) after retiring from active duty, your children are eligible to attend school on base for free, on a space-available basis. At some installations, such as Yongsan and Camp Casey, it appears that space may be available. At other installations such as Osan AB, space is probably not available. If you think you are eligible, check with you local Department of Defense Dependent School (DODDS) office.

6. Benefits for Children: If your husband died while on active duty, or his death was service-connected, you and your children are eligible for several types of benefits. If you have children under the age of 16, you are eligible to receive social security benefits for yourself and your child or children. Your benefits stop when the youngest child reaches the age of 16.

If your children have not completed high school, social security school benefits are available for each child, up to graduation or age 19, whichever is earlier.

You can also receive benefits from the VA for your children attending college. A maximum of 45 months of benefits is available for each child, and these benefits can be claimed up to age 26.

7. Lapel Button and Gold Star Lapel Button: A lapel button is authorized for the next of kin of any military member who died on active duty. A gold star lapel button is authorized for the next of kin of any military member who died as a result of action against an enemy of the United States. These are provided at no cost to the next of kin, which include surviving spouse, parents, children, brothers and sisters. If you are eligible and wish to receive a lapel button or gold star lapel button, please contact the RAO.

8. Ration Control Changes: As you know, the ration control policy was changed on April 12 to allow all eligible personnel possessing a ration card to purchase beer and alcohol. A maximum of three bottle of alcohol can be purchased by a single member. A maximum of five

bottles of alcohol can be purchased for a family or two or more adults. A family consists of two or more people who have a valid military ID card, are at least 20 years of age, and are included on the ration card application. If you have one or more children 20 years old with a valid military ID card and they were included on the ration card application, you are authorized the family purchase limit of five bottles. A child is no longer authorized to have an ID upon reaching age 21.

Each family is authorized to purchase up to eight cases of beer per month. Purchases of one to three six-packs do not count against the eight-case limit. You can purchase up to two cases of beer per day, and all purchases -- by the case and by the six-pack -- count against the daily limit of two cases. All beer purchases, including six-pack and case, must be signed for on a Beer Purchase Log.

Wine purchases are unrestricted, except for the shelf limit maximum of three bottles of each kind of wine per day.

9. Documents for Permanent Ration Control Card: When the new change to USFK Regulation 60-1 becomes effective, widows who possess a Korean ID card will need only their military ID card and their Korean ID card to obtain a new permanent ration control card. This change should become effective within a month or two. When it does, you will no longer need a lease or other proof of residence to obtain a new ration card, just the two ID cards.

10. Eligibility Verification Report (EVR): There are times when the Eligibility Verification Report (EVR) sent by the VA is misplaced. If you don't send this form back, your VA benefits will stop. If you think you may have received an EVR but did not sign and return it, you can now get a replacement EVR form from the RAO.