LOCATION GUIDE

South Korea

Command sponsorship, pets, housing and base notes for Humphreys, Osan, Daegu and Kunsan.

BOARDING PASS

FROM	TO	START
Your current duty station	Republic of Korea	6+ months out

BASES	ALLOWANCES
Humphreys · Osan · Daegu · Kunsan	OHA + COLA

SERIES
OCONUS
PCS

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WELCOME

Korea at a glance

Most accompanied families land at Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek, the largest U.S. overseas base, or nearby Osan Air Base. This guide covers what's true country-wide; base notes near the end cover the differences.

INSTALLATION	AREA	MAIN SERVICES	FAMILY PRESENCE
Camp Humphreys	Pyeongtaek	Army, USFK HQ, joint	Largest; most families
Osan Air Base	Pyeongtaek	Air Force, Space Force	Large; about 20 min from Humphreys
USAG Daegu	Daegu / Waegwan	Army sustainment	Moderate
Kunsan Air Base	Gunsan	Air Force	Mostly unaccompanied tours
Camp Casey / Red Cloud	Dongducheon / Uijeongbu	Army	Mostly unaccompanied
Fleet Activities Chinhae	Changwon	Navy	Small

Five things that work differently here

1

Command sponsorship

Families need it to come on government orders.

2

OHA + COLA

Overseas allowances replace BAH.

3

USFK license

Required to drive after your first 30 days.

4

Pet import rules

Strict, document-heavy and slow — start early.

5

NEO exercises

Command-sponsored families take part in annual evacuation drills.

Start six months out

Screening, passports and pet paperwork set the pace of the whole move.

COUNTDOWN

Before you go

Start family travel screening at least 180 days before your report date. Getting command sponsorship on your orders before you leave is far easier than requesting it after arrival.

Command sponsorship, in short

- Lets your family live with you on government orders, with housing, DoDEA schools and medical care
- Each service runs its own program and paperwork
- Requires overseas screening for every family member (EFMP for Army)
- Accompanied tours run longer — confirm tour length on your orders

Start the long-lead items 6 MONTHS OUT

- [ ] Request command sponsorship; start overseas screening
- [ ] Apply for no-fee passports; keep tourist passports current
- [ ] Contact your sponsor and the gaining unit
- [ ] Book the vet: microchip, rabies shot, titer test

Make the big calls 3 MONTHS OUT

- [ ] Decide: ship, store or sell your car
- [ ] Request school records; register with DoDEA
- [ ] Book pet space on your flight
- [ ] Schedule household goods and unaccompanied baggage
- [ ] Reserve temporary lodging on post

Final prep 1 MONTH OUT

- [ ] Take the USFK driver's training and test online (scores valid 60 days)
- [ ] Set up travel-friendly banking and cards
- [ ] Get your pet's health certificate (within 10 days of travel)
- [ ] Copy orders, passports and medical records for your carry-on

FOUR-LEGGED FAMILY

Bringing pets to Korea

Start pet prep the week you get orders. The full process takes about 45 days or more, and dozens of military pets miss Korea's import rules each year — leading to quarantine and extra costs.

Four steps, in this order

1
Microchip
ISO 11784/11785, 15 digits.

BEFORE THE RABIES SHOT

2
Rabies vaccine
Current; for pets over 90 days old.

30+ DAYS BEFORE ARRIVAL

3
Titer test
FAVN result of 0.5 IU/ml or higher. Lab takes 3–4 weeks.

WITHIN 24 MONTHS OF ARRIVAL

4
Health certificate
USDA-endorsed, or from a military vet.

WITHIN 10 DAYS OF TRAVEL

A rabies shot given before the microchip doesn't count. Microchip numbers must match on every document. Source: USDA APHIS; Stars and Stripes, Feb 2026.

Military-specific rules

- Register your pet at the base Veterinary Treatment Facility within 10 duty days of arrival
- On- and off-base housing have dog breed restrictions
- Base kennels fill fast in summer PCS season
- Military family housing typically allows up to 2 pets; dorms and barracks allow none
- Patriot Express pet space is limited and first-come — book early
- Abandoning a pet in Korea can bring UCMJ action

The timing trap

If your pet is 90 days or older, the titer test alone takes 3–4 weeks of lab time on top of the vaccine wait. Report dates can arrive faster than this process allows.

ON THE ROAD

Vehicles and driving

Driving in Korea is a privilege, not an entitlement — not every service member is authorized a car. Confirm with your gaining unit before you ship one.

Getting your USFK license

1. Required for anyone driving a car in Korea after the first 30 days.
2. Take the training, then the test, online through Joint Knowledge Online (JKO) before you arrive.
3. Scores are valid 60 days — time the test close to your move.
4. Bring your passing score, ID card and valid stateside license to the installation licensing office.
5. The license is valid five years. Some installations require newcomer orientation first.

Ship, buy or go car-free?

OPTION	PROS	WATCH-OUTS
Ship your car	Government ships one car if orders authorize it	Weeks without a car; some insurers won't cover overseas
Buy used locally	Cheap and available on arrival	Older vehicles — inspect carefully
Go car-free	Buses, KTX trains and base shuttles are good	Harder with small kids

One car on the government's dime

A second car or motorcycle ships at your own cost and needs USFK approval to register.

On the road

Expect toll highways, busy city traffic and strict USFK enforcement on drinking and driving.

WHERE YOU'LL LIVE

Housing and allowances

Overseas you get OHA and COLA instead of BAH. Government housing is assigned first when available.

OHA

Overseas Housing Allowance

Your actual rent up to a rank-based ceiling, plus a utility amount. Shifts monthly with the won.

MIHA

Move-In Housing Allowance

One-time setup costs when you move into an off-post rental.

COLA

Cost of Living Allowance

Offsets higher local prices; set by location and family size.

TLA

Temporary Lodging Allowance

Lodging while you wait for housing. Keep every receipt.

Double-check your rates — OHA and COLA change often.

OHA: travel.dod.mil/Allowances/Overseas-Housing-Allowance/OHA-Rate-Lookup/

Overseas COLA: travel.dod.mil/allowances/overseas-cost-of-living-allowance/overseas-cola-rate-lookup/

On post

- Modern high-rise towers with 3- to 5-bedroom apartments at Humphreys
- No out-of-pocket rent; you forfeit OHA
- Single members E-6 and below generally live in barracks

Off post

- Attend the mandatory off-post housing briefing
- Use the Housing Office's approved realtor list — Korean deposits and leases differ from U.S. practice
- Families without command sponsorship can't get on-post housing and aren't automatically entitled to OHA

Don't sign anything yet

Never sign a lease before the Housing Office approves you to live off post.

YOUR KIDS

Schools and child care

Command-sponsored children attend DoDEA schools on base for free. Students without command sponsorship are lower priority and may be waitlisted or pay tuition.

COMMUNITY	DODEA SCHOOLS	GRADES
Camp Humphreys	Humphreys Central ES, Humphreys West ES, Humphreys MS, Humphreys HS	PK–12
Osan AB	Osan ES, Osan Middle High School	PK–12
Daegu	Daegu ES (Camp George), Daegu Middle High School (Camp Walker)	PK–12

Contacts and registration: DoDEA Pacific West District

Good to know

- Register online with DoDEA before you leave
- Families outside a DoDEA area may qualify for the Non-DoD Schools Program
- Homeschooling is common; look for base homeschool groups

Bring in your carry-on

- [ ] Transcripts and report cards
- [ ] IEP or 504 plans and evaluations
- [ ] Shot and physical records
- [ ] Withdrawal forms from the last school

Child care

Request Child Development Center and school-age care through MilitaryChildCare.com as soon as you have orders. Ask your sponsor about current waitlists at your base.

YOUR HEALTH

Medical and dental

Brian D. Allgood Army Community Hospital at Camp Humphreys is the only military facility in Korea with a 24/7 emergency room. Everywhere else, emergencies go to the nearest Korean hospital.

LOCATION	MILITARY FACILITY	NOTES
Camp Humphreys	Brian D. Allgood Army Community Hospital	Inpatient, ER, labor and delivery, specialty care
Osan AB	51st Medical Group	Outpatient clinic
Daegu	Camp Walker Army Health Clinic	Outpatient clinic
Kunsan AB	8th Medical Group	Outpatient clinic
Chinhae	Branch Health Clinic Chinhae	Navy clinic

How care works

- Families enroll in TRICARE Prime Overseas and use military clinics first
- Off-base care is through the TRICARE Overseas network of Korean hospitals
- Overseas screening checks that the care your family needs exists in Korea; special needs may limit where you can be assigned
- Military dental care is for active duty; family members use the TRICARE Dental Program with local providers
- A bilingual medical advice line helps with Korean hospitals and providers

Pack these in your carry-on

Paper copies of everyone's medical records and a 90-day supply of prescriptions. Your household goods may take weeks to catch up.

SETTLING IN

Money, phones and daily life

Korea is easy to live in once you set up three things: a local way to pay, a Korean phone number and the right map app.

Money

- Currency is the Korean won (KRW); dollars work on base
- An on-base bank or credit union can open a won account
- Use cards with no foreign transaction fees off base

Phones & internet

- Many Korean apps and deliveries need a Korean number
- Sign up with an on-base provider or a Korean carrier after arrival
- Fast home internet is standard; book install early

Getting around

- Use Naver Map or KakaoMap; Google Maps has limited directions
- A T-money card pays for buses, subways and some taxis
- KTX trains link Pyeongtaek, Seoul, Daegu and Busan

Spouse employment

Off-base work is limited under the SOFA, so most spouses work on base or remotely. Ask ACS or the Airman & Family Readiness Center about jobs and the rules.

Power check

Korea uses 220V outlets. Small U.S. electronics may need converters; on-post homes often have both voltages.

GUESTS OF THE HOST NATION

Culture, safety and rules

As SOFA personnel you represent the U.S. off base, and USFK policies apply to you and your family members on and off post.

Evacuation (NEO)

- Command-sponsored families take part in annual evacuation exercises
- Non-sponsored families should register too
- Keep a go-bag ready (below)

USFK rules

- Policies on alcohol, off-limits areas and conduct
- Your newcomer brief covers the current list
- Pets must be registered and microchipped

Etiquette

- Shoes off in homes and some restaurants
- Give and receive with two hands; bow slightly
- Tipping isn't expected; sort trash, recycling and food waste

Your NEO go-bag

- [ ] Passports (no-fee and tourist) for everyone
- [ ] Orders and command sponsorship approval
- [ ] Medical, shot and pet records
- [ ] Two weeks of medications and chargers
- [ ] Military and dependent IDs
- [ ] Birth and marriage certificates, powers of attorney
- [ ] Cash in USD and KRW
- [ ] Comfort items for the kids

Weather

Hot, humid summers with a monsoon season, cold dry winters, and seasonal yellow dust and fine dust — keep an air-quality app on your phone.

BASE NOTES · PYEONGTAEK

Camp Humphreys and Osan

Camp Humphreys ARMY · USFK HQ

- Largest U.S. overseas base, about 40 miles south of Seoul, with the newest facilities in Korea
- Medical: Brian D. Allgood Army Community Hospital (ER, labor and delivery)
- The language barrier is bigger in Pyeongtaek than Seoul; KTX makes Seoul trips easy
- Housing: on-post towers first; many families live off post in Pyeongtaek with OHA
- Schools: four DoDEA schools, PK–12

HOUSING OFFICE	ACS	LODGING	VET CLINIC

Osan Air Base AIR FORCE · SPACE FORCE

- About 20–30 minutes from Humphreys
- Home of the base vet clinic many Humphreys families use
- Schools: Osan ES and Osan Middle High School
- Family housing allows up to 2 pets; living off base isn't guaranteed
- Medical: 51st Medical Group; hospital care at Humphreys
- The Songtan shopping district sits just outside the main gate

HOUSING OFFICE	A&FRC	LODGING	VET CLINIC

BASE NOTES · SOUTH AND WEST

Daegu and Kunsan

USAG Daegu CAMPS WALKER, GEORGE, HENRY, CARROLL

- Live in Korea's fourth-largest city, with a strong local food scene
- Medical: Camp Walker Army Health Clinic (outpatient); hospital care off post or at Humphreys
- KTX reaches Seoul in about 2 hours
- Smaller, older facilities and a smaller community than Humphreys
- Schools: Daegu ES (Camp George) and Daegu MHS (Camp Walker)

HOUSING OFFICE | ACS | LODGING | VET CLINIC

Kunsan Air Base AIR FORCE · GUNSAN

- Mostly one-year unaccompanied tours; few command-sponsored families
- Plan for dorm life: what to pack and what to buy locally
- Medical: 8th Medical Group (outpatient)
- Set up a family call schedule early — the time difference is real

DORM MANAGER | A&FRC | LODGING | FIRST SERGEANT

Shipping a car to Kunsan?

You're entitled to one POV shipment per PCS. Using it here means paying your own way to ship that car to your next assignment.

KEEP THIS HANDY

Contacts and links

Official newcomer pages are the best source for current phone numbers. Add your base's numbers on the base notes pages.

RESOURCE	WHAT IT'S FOR
USFK Newcomers Before Travel Guide	Command sponsorship, sponsorship, orders
MilitaryINSTALLATIONS — Camp Humphreys	Housing, contacts, check-in
Osan AB Mustang One Stop	Osan newcomer and pet info
DoDEA Pacific West	School contacts and registration
Brian D. Allgood Army Community Hospital	Medical directory
TRICARE Overseas	Off-base care network
USDA APHIS — Pet travel to Korea	Pet import rules
OHA Rate Lookup	Check your current Overseas Housing Allowance
Overseas COLA Rate Lookup	Check your current cost-of-living allowance
MilitaryChildCare.com	Child care requests

Sources: USFK; Military OneSource; Stars and Stripes (Feb 2026); USDA APHIS; Osan AB; MARFORK; Army.mil (Mar 2026); DoDEA; Kunsan AB.

READY FOR THE FULL PLAYBOOK?

Go step by step with the kits.

Checklists, shipment planners, trackers and a ready-to-go binder for every stage of your move.

pcslikeapro.org

hello@pcslikeapro.org

WORKSHEET

Track it, budget it, land it

Pet import tracker

STEP	DATE DONE	CHIP # MATCHES?	NOTES
Microchip implanted			
Rabies vaccine			
Titer blood draw			
Titer result received			
Health certificate (within 10 days)			
Flight booked			
Vet registration in Korea (10 duty days)			

OHA budget (off post only)

ITEM	KRW	USD
My OHA rent ceiling	₩	$
Monthly rent	₩	$
Utilities	₩	$
MIHA received	₩	$

First-week checklist

- [ ] Sign in; attend newcomer orientation
- [ ] Enroll in TRICARE Prime Overseas
- [ ] Start housing in-processing
- [ ] Get a Korean phone number and T-money card
- [ ] Pick up your USFK driver's license
- [ ] Register pets at the vet clinic
- [ ] Register kids at the DoDEA school
- [ ] Register for NEO