



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH AIR FORCE (AIR FORCES KOREA)

26 February 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR SEVENTH AIR FORCE AIRMEN, GUARDIANS, AND FAMILIES

FROM: 7 AF/CC
Unit 2047
APO AP 96278-2047

SUBJECT: Making an Informed Choice on Non-Command Sponsorship of Dependents

1. The attached Informed Choice Guide provides responsibilities and resources for Airmen considering bringing non-command sponsored (non-CSP) dependents to South Korea. It is my goal Airmen, Guardians, and their families make an informed choice should they choose to come to South Korea in a non-CSP status.
2. The Informed Choice Guide begins with important responsibilities all service members must understand and comply with when bringing non-CSP dependents to South Korea. It then covers available benefits and entitlements for non-CSP dependents.
3. South Korea is a world-class country whose culture and graciousness are unmatched. The ultimate decision on whether to bring non-CSP dependents rests with you. Every family situation is unique. My intent for this guide is to help families make the best possible decision.
4. I encourage all Airmen and Guardians to consider the guide and identified resources, and to discuss individual circumstances with their chain of command should they have specific questions. For additional information, my point of contact for this matter is 7 AF/A1.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott L. Pleus", is positioned above the typed name.

SCOTT L. PLEUS
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander

Attachment:
Informed Choice Guide

Seventh Air Force

Informed Choice Guide for Non-Command Sponsored Dependents

Informing Airmen, Guardians, and Families
Updated: 9 February 2021

Introduction:

When a service member receives an unaccompanied assignment to South Korea, they *can* choose to bring their dependents in a *non-command sponsored* status. However, coming to South Korea non-command sponsored means dependents may receive entitlements and benefits differently or in some cases not at all. This is a significant family and life decision, and should not be taken lightly. This guide provides a comparison of benefits between command and non-command sponsored families to aid in making the decision.

Right Up Front: Key Airmen Responsibilities for bringing Non-Command Sponsored Dependents to South Korea:

Emergency Evacuation Preparedness: Non-CSP dependents in South Korea must be prepared and enrolled by their service member in their unit Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) warden program in accordance with USFK Pamphlet 600-300, *Noncombatant Emergency Evacuation Instructions*, 30 Jan 19, paragraph 2-10. All service members are also issued an emergency gas mask for their dependents. Find out more in the NEO section of the Seventh Air Force website: www.7AF.PACAF.AF.MIL.

Paid Allowances: In accordance with DoD 7000.14-R Financial Management Regulation (FMR) Volume 7A, Chapter 26, *Housing Allowances*, Service Members must properly certify the locations of their dependents to ensure the entitlements are paid correctly. Airmen and Guardians assigned to Essential Station Messing (e.g. assigned to a dorm) are not paid a Basic Allowance for Subsistence regardless of a dependent's location. A service member with non-CSP dependents in South Korea is not authorized Family Separation Allowance and housing allowances are also impacted.

Getting Here: Travel, Documentation, Household Goods, and Cars

Travel:

(Note: CSP = command sponsorship program; SM = service member)

Benefit / Entitlement	CSP with dependents Accompanied Tour	Non-CSP with dependents Unaccompanied Tour	Unaccompanied, Dependents not in ROK
<u>Transportation Expenses</u>	Government Funded Travel includes: PCS Travel Govt Funded Emergency Travel Dependent Education Student Travel	No government funded travel entitlements to the ROK	No travel entitlements to the ROK.
<u>Quarantine Arrangements</u>	Entitled to government funded base quarantine	Quarantine facilities are space available and self-funded. If space	N/A

<u>in a Public Health Emergency</u>	facilities when travelling on government-funded travel.	is not available, non-CSP dependents quarantine at South Korean Government approved facilities at a higher cost.	
<u>Space-A Patriot Express Travel</u>	May use Space-A to travel round trip FROM South Korea as Category V.	May use Space-A as Category V for OCONUS to OCONUS travel. May use Space A as Category I for emergency travel FROM South Korea. Cannot use Space A to return to South Korea.	May use Space-A as Category V on a round trip TO South Korea once every 365 days.

Space-A categories set the priority for Patriot Express seats made available to Space-A passengers. Generally, the Space-A categories are: I. Emergency Leave Unfunded Travel II. Accompanied Environmental and Moral Leave III. Ordinary Leave IV. Unaccompanied Environmental and Moral Leave V. Dependents VI. Retirees and their Dependents.

Documentation:

Benefit / Entitlement	CSP with dependents	Non-CSP with dependents	Unaccompanied, Dependents not in ROK
<u>Orders</u>	Service members receive orders with a CSP number and their dependents named on the order as travelling to South Korea via government funding.	Service members coming to South Korea on an unaccompanied, dependent restricted tour must work with their servicing Military Personnel Flight to ensure the orders should reflect the situation the family has elected. Those who elect to bring non-CSP dependents to South Korea should get their dependents' names listed on the service member's orders as electing to live in South Korea non-CSP. This is not automatic.	The orders reflect the Designated Location the family has chosen to live. Government funded options vary depending upon service members circumstances. Speak with your relocations counselor and unit.
<u>Tour Lengths</u>	Accompanied: two years.	Unaccompanied: one year.	Unaccompanied: one year
Key Source: AFPC Guide on Korea Assignment Incentive Pay on myPERS, Keyword: Korea			
Tour Length Note: Key Leadership positions at Osan AB are two years in length regardless of the choice to serve accompanied or not.			
<u>Passport Funding for Dependents (US Passport Holders)</u>	Government funded blue no-fee US passport using the installation official passport office and DoD network.	Self-funded US Blue Tourist passport. No access to DoD passport network.	N/A
<u>Visa and SOFA Stamp</u> (DoD Authoritative)	Korean A-3 visas allow DoD dependents the ability to live in Korea and work long term while the service member serves in South Korea. All DoD Dependents named on military PCS orders are issued A-3 Visas by Korean immigration concurrently with the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA)		N/A

Source: Foreign Clearance Guide)	stamp in the passport. The SOFA stamp certifies the holder is accompanying the service member. It is not related to command sponsorship. Korean A-3 visas allow DoD dependents, both CSP and non-CSP, to live and work (on base) in South Korea for the duration of the service member's assignment. The stamp is annotated for expiration based on the last month of the orders, also called the DEROS month (Date Estimated Return from Overseas). Non-CSP dependents who arrive in South Korea without their names listed on the service member's orders are not allowed to work and are required to depart South Korea within 90 days of their arrival (when the A-2 tourist visa expires).	
<u>Immigrating South Korea:</u> <u>Immigrating South Korea (continued):</u> (DoD Source: Foreign Clearance Guide)	<u>US Passport holders:</u> U.S. passport holders enter South Korea on a visa waiver program and get a 90 day A-2 "tourist" visa upon arrival. They must get the A-3 visa and SOFA stamp within 30 days of arrival. <u>Republic of Korea Passport Holders:</u> ROK passport holders enter as nationals of the country. <u>Third Country (non-US, non-ROK) Passport Holders:</u> DoD dependents with passports from other countries other than the US or South Korea must determine if they need a visa issued prior to coming to South Korea from a South Korean embassy or consulate or they will be barred entry from South Korea and returned. This applies to both CSP and non-CSP travelers. Using the DoD Foreign Clearance Guide, find South Korea Ministry of Foreign Affairs resources that pertain to your passport nationality and requirements for South Korea.	N/A

Automobiles and Household Goods:

Benefit / Entitlement	CSP with dependents	Non-CSP with dependents	Unaccompanied, dependents not in ROK
<u>Shipping a vehicle, USFK drivers license, and vehicle registration</u>	Only E-7 and above and CSP dependents (18+) may obtain a USFK driver's license. All E6 and below, and all non-command sponsored dependents, require an exception to policy (ETP) to obtain a USFK driver's license. The first O5 in their chain of command must sign the ETP letter. ETPs are generally approved only if the service member is living off-base. E-7 and above are authorized to ship and register one vehicle. E-6 and below may not ship a car and require an ETP to register a vehicle. Registering a second vehicle is not approved for non-CSP families.		N/A
<u>Unaccompanied "Hold" Baggage, Household Goods</u> DoD Source: Joint	- Accompanied service members are entitled to ship their full accompanied JTR weight based on their rank entitlement in the JTR.	- Non-CSP dependents are not entitled to shipping household goods. Unaccompanied service members, to include those who bring non-CSP dependents to	N/A

Travel Regulation (JTR)	- Hold baggage is an entitlement set at typically 500 pounds and shipped regardless of CSP status. - Reference the JTR for limits and restrictions. Please do not ship appliances. They are provided.	South Korea, are entitled to ship a limited unaccompanied weight based on their rank and the JTR. - Hold baggage is shipped independent of CSP status. - Reference the JTR for limits and restrictions that apply to you. Please do not ship appliances. They are provided.	
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Key Entitlements and Benefits: Medical, Base Schools, Child Care

Benefit / Entitlement	CSP with dependents	Non-CSP with dependents	Unaccompanied, dependents not in ROK
<u>Tricare Medical Services in Korea</u>	Receives Primary Care on base. Enrolled in Tricare Prime.	Non-CSP dependents in South Korea receive medical benefits on the economy for care. Tricare eligible non-CSP dependents in South Korea must enroll in Tricare Select and see a provider off base for primary care and specialty care. Some medical services, especially mental health care and certain pediatric specialties, may not be available or are extremely limited on the Korean market. Please review the Tricare Overseas (International SOS) Provider Look up to search for availability of care which suits your needs: http://www.tricare-overseas.com/provider-search	Receives Tricare plan they select at the Designated Location.
<u>Base Schools</u>	Enrolled in DoDEA Schools on base.	Space Available Only. There are very few seats. Availability will change from school year to school year and school to school. Review the DoD Education Activity Guide for non-Command Sponsored: https://www.dodea.edu/SpaceABrochure	Receives US public school education in accordance with law if in US.
<u>Base Child Care</u>	Earned based on DoD Priority. Osan has limited slots.	Space Available Only.	Earns slot base on DoD priority

Education and Child Care alternatives: These self-funded options are not DoD affiliated or endorsed and are open to all.

Off base religious, private, public, and international child care and schools (mostly in Pyeongtaek)
Private or public home schooling programs (non DOD). Community groups do exist.

Living Arrangements

Benefit / Entitlement	CSP with dependents	Non-CSP with dependents	Unaccompanied, dependents not in ROK
<u>Housing</u>	CSP dependents are eligible to live on base in military family housing. Those who live off base receive an Overseas Housing Allowance with Dependents rate.	Non-CSP dependents are not eligible to live on base. Service members bringing non-CSP dependents to South Korea and who certify it with base finance, are entitled to the Overseas Housing Allowance with Dependents rate for those dependents who reside in South Korea. The member may still be assigned a dorm and not authorized to live off base.	Receives quarters or housing allowance at designated location.
<u>Government “Loaner” Furniture</u>	Service members and CSP dependents are eligible to use government loaner furniture while awaiting their furniture to arrive and before PCS when their furniture is shipped. The service is for the service members and the number of command sponsored dependents.	This service is not available to non-CSP dependents. Service members who are not assigned a dorm but live off base, do have a loaner furniture service limited to them.	N/A
<u>Government Appliances</u>	Command Sponsored families and unaccompanied service members receive appliances (washer, dryer, dishwasher, stove, and refrigerator) for the duration of their tour.	Non-CSP dependents residing in South Korea are not authorized government appliances in their own right. Unaccompanied service members receive appliances in their dorm or off base housing to accommodate one person.	N/A

Other Benefits, Entitlements, and Services:

Benefit / Entitlement	CSP with dependents	Non-CSP with dependents	Unaccompanied, dependents not in ROK
<u>A USFK Rations Control Card</u>	All DoD dependents in South Korea, both CSP and non-CSP, use their service member’s orders to South Korea with the dependents listed to obtain a United States Force Korea (USFK) Rations Control Card. The card is required to access Duty Free Goods from the Commissary (DeCA) and Base		N/A

	Exchange/Shoppette/Gas Station (AAFES). The USFK Rations Control Card is a controlled item the service member signs for and returns at the end of the tour.	
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Where available, both CSP and non-CSP Dependents may use the following base facilities and services:

Base Access:

Defense Biometric Identification System (registration is automatic globally now)
Escorting Guest on Base (installation rules and age restrictions apply)

Base Human Resource Office:

Any DoD dependent with an A-3 Visa may apply for base jobs and work on base.
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Helping Agencies:

Airmen and Family Readiness Center; Red Cross; Women, Infants, and Children Overseas Program (WIC)
Base Legal Services

Duty Free Goods (*must present USFK Rations Control Card*):

Commissary
Base Exchange/Shoppette/Gas Station

Services:

Force Support MWR Facilities, Club Membership, Community Centers, Fitness Centers, Lodging
Education Center College Classes (Space available)
Base Shuttle (Space available)
Veterinarian Services (Osan Air Base; only offered at other select USFK bases)
Post Office Box, Post Office Mailing
Movie Theater, AAFES eateries, base restaurants and cafes, food trucks, concessions