



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES FORCES, KOREA
UNIT #16237
APO AP 96206-6237

Dear USFK Civilian Employees:

JUN 24 2016

In early April, all U.S. government civilians stationed in the Republic of Korea outside of the Seoul Metropolitan Area who were entitled to Post Hardship Differential were notified they would no longer receive it. Since then, USFK and local installation commands worked to submit questionnaires to the Department of State regarding the hardships of living and working in the Republic of Korea. The DoS review of those submissions is complete.

Effective 26 June 2016, the following areas will again see a 5% Post Hardship Differential: Kunsan, Kwangju, Chunchon, Munsan, Tongduchon, Uijongbu, Waegwan, Ammo Depot #9, Camp Carroll, and Pohang. For these other areas and installations, it will not be reinstated: Seoul, Taegu, Humphreys, Osan, Chinhae, Busan, Changwon, and Kimhae. The major distinctions driving the reinstatement decision were the reported difficulties accessing medical care, lack of nearby education facilities for children, and isolation.

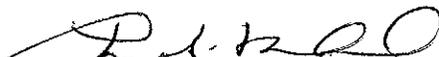
For those employees who are eligible for Post Hardship Differential and living in one of the reinstated areas, Post Hardship Differential will re-appear on your 14 July 2016 LES. The change will not be retroactive to April when Post Hardship Differential was first eliminated.

For those employees working in those areas where Post Hardship Differential will not be reinstated, I understand you are disappointed by the results. I remain concerned about the effect this will have on you and your families, as well as the ability of commands to recruit new employees from the U.S. All avenues will be explored as we seek to maintain a strong workforce, to include submitting a new questionnaire if living conditions change.

If you have concerns or questions related to Post Hardship Differential, please contact your chain of command and your Civilian Personnel Office.

Again, thank you for your selfless, dedicated, and professional service to our Nation.

Sincerely,


THOMAS S. VANDAL
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Chief of Staff