



BRAVO DETACHMENT, 176TH FINANCE BATTALION

FINANCE NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2004

The purpose of this monthly newsletter is to inform the soldiers in Area III of finance issues. Our goal is to keep you informed so that we can work as a team to better serve the soldiers on Camp Humphreys and Area III.

Finance FTX

Our Finance office is conducting an FTX 10 – 12 FEB, and 24 – 26 FEB. Finance office operations will be handled at the FTX location outside of the cashier's cage. The grid is CF 26739187.

Cost of Living Allowance Survey

The intent of COLA is to allow service members to maintain purchasing power so that they can purchase the same standard of goods and services overseas as in the United States. The survey takes only 15-20 minutes to complete - a small sacrifice for a potentially large benefit. This survey is available through 9 FEB. ALL SERVICE MEMBERS are eligible and strongly encouraged to participate. Please take the time to complete this survey, as the survey's results can benefit all the service members in the USFK. The 2004 COLA Survey is now online at <http://175fincom.korea.army.mil>.

Overseas Housing Allowance Utility Survey

Annually, DoD conducts an Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) utility and moving In Housing Allowance (MIHA) survey to collect utility and recurring maintenance expense data from soldiers who receive OHA. This data is used to set utility and MIHA allowances. It is critical that soldiers that reside off post complete the survey as accurately as possible at <http://www.milsurveys.com/OHA>, no later than 31 Jan 04. For assistance, please contact the Finance office or Housing office.

Electronic W2's are now AVAILABLE

Military members and Department of Defense civilian employees can now view, print, and save their 2003 tax statements from the myPay website at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. Finance will **NOT** be providing a hard copy of W2.

Government Travel Card Guidance

Effective immediately, all accounts will be deactivated upon PCS from Korea, regardless of whether Soldiers are TDY en-route to their next duty station. All personnel departing Korea are authorized a travel advance from Finance with PCS/TDY orders.

Help Us Help You

- Please remember that finance is closed every Thursday for SGT's time training. We are always available for emergency situations, Red Cross messages, emergency PCS, and death gratuity payments to name a few. It is imperative to schedule your finance appointments with us in advance in order to avoid a wasted trip to finance from outlying areas. Failure to plan ahead does not constitute an emergency on our part. We are here to serve you but we do train on Thursdays.
- Ensure all new soldiers in-process finance. **Soldiers should in-process within 3 working days of their arrival. In-processing finance is very critical as it affects accurate payment of entitlements.** If a soldier does not in-process by the 20th of the month they arrive and their entitlements change, they will be overpaid and have a debt to the government. It will also ensure that soldiers receive their LES at their unit. **Timely in processing of personnel will prevent pay problems.**

Finance Points of Contact

Detachment Commander-CPT Erving	753-8202	Chief Disbursing	753-8227
Detachment Sergeant-SFC Richardson	753-8203	Chief of Military Pay	753-8203
Customer Svc SSG Flowers	753-8210	Processing	753-8209
In/ Out Processing-SGT Sosa	753-8585	Travel	753-8215
Battalion Commander-LTC Kucharuk	725-8838	Battalion CSM	723-7959
175 th FINCOM WEBSITE			http://175fincom.korea.army.mil
Commander's Hotline for Unresolved Military or Civilian Pay Inquiries			725-CASH

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Wednesday & Friday: 0900-1600
Cashier Cage closes at 1600 daily.

NOTE: Finance is CLOSED every Thursday