

**AREA IV
DIAMOND GAZETTE**

March 2003

YOUR ROAD MAP TO MILITARY PAY ISSUES

OFFICE HOURS

Main Finance (Bldg 1685) & In/Out Proc. (Bldg 1103)

0900-1500 M-W, F

Camp Carroll (Bldg T-138)

0900-1500 M-W, F

Camp Hialeah (Bldg T-251)

0900-1500 M-W, F

FINANCE NUMBERS

Battalion Commander	725-8838
Battalion CSM	723-7959
Detachment Commander	768-7575
Detachment Sergeant	768-8449
Customer Service	768-6944/7813/7519
Travel	768-7658
Disbursing	768-6927
In/Out Processing	768-7022/7416
CP Carroll	765-8697/8504/8774
CP Hialeah	763-7303/7370

FINANCE HOTLINE

The 175th FINCOM accepts military and civilian pay inquiries at Korea-wide DSN 725-CASH and via the 175th FINCOM website. Our preferred method of servicing soldiers remains through direct contact with our supported units.

FINANCE WEBSITES

<http://175fincom.korea.army.mil> & <http://www.dfas.mil>

HOT TOPICS

W2'S FOR DITY CLAIMS

All soldiers who filed a DITY claim here in Korea during 2002 need to come to the Finance office to pick up their W2.

W-2s:

2002 W-2s will be available for printing at your convenience on 31 January 2003 via MyPay. If you do not have a pin number to access MyPay, Finance has the capability to assign soldiers a MyPay pin number. See www.dfas.mil/myPay. POC's: SSG Ortiz & SGT Carmona.

MILITARY PAPER CHECK CONVERSION

Effective 1 March 2003, all personal checks presented or mailed to us will be processed using newly deployed US Treasury Department systems and procedures. When you present a completed, signed check, the information from your check will be used to generate an electronic transfer of the funds from your account in the full amount of the check. Your check will be marked and returned to you; an electronic image of the check will be used to clear the funds. The electronic transaction of funds will occur within one a two days, a few days quicker than now. If you have any questions, please contact our Disbursing Office at 723-4021.

2003 PAY RATES FOR BASIC PAY, BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING (BAH) AND BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR SUBSISTENCE (BAS):

See the new basic pay chart at the following website: www.dfas.mil/money/milpay. Many BAH rates change effective January 2003. The new rates by zip code are at the following website: www.dtic.mil/perdiem/bahform.html. BAS rates also change in January. The new monthly BAS rate for officers is \$167.20 per month. For enlisted soldiers on separate rations, the new rate is \$262.50 per month.

BAH FOR SOLDIERS WITH HAAP ASSIGNMENTS

All soldiers who accept their HAAP assignment and move their dependents to a location other than their HAAP, is entitled to BAH for the where their dependents are located.

NEW MINIMUM HOLDING PERIOD FOR US

SAVINGS BONDS: The minimum holding period for Series EE and Series I bonds is extending from 6 months to 12 months, effective February 1, 2003. Bonds issued January 2003 and earlier will continue to have a 6-month minimum holding period. This means if you purchase a Series EE or I bond with an issue date of February 2003 or later, you must hold on to the bond for 12 months before you can cash it. The current semi-annual rates of return for Savings Bonds held at least five years is 3.25% for Series EE Bonds and 4.08% for Series I Bonds. For more information about savings bonds, see the website: www.savingsbonds.gov.