

51 FW Legal Office Handout - Getting Married in Korea

USFK Regulation 600-240 outlines the policies and procedures for marriage between any Service member assigned to the Republic of Korea (ROK) and non-U.S. citizens, regardless of where the marriage will take place. In the past, some marriages were found to be void or the newly married couple discovered that the foreign national spouse was ineligible for immigration to the U.S. These procedures were implemented to ensure Service members are informed and aware of circumstances that may arise with non-U.S. spouses.

This process is not a red “STOP” light, it’s a process for assessing and determining whether to proceed with the final decision to marry. The Service member’s commander should foster an awareness of the pros and cons of intercultural marriages. See USFK 600-240, para I – 1b.

This regulation is punitive. Service members who violate the requirements of this regulation may be subject to punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and administrative or other adverse action. USFK 600-240, para 1-5 applies to all active-duty U.S. Military personnel assigned to the ROK. This regulation does NOT apply to marriages between:

- a) U.S. Citizens
- b) U.S. Service members REGARDLESS OF CITIZENSHIP (Dual-Mil) - Visit the Legal office to obtain the appropriate marriage packet and further instructions)
- c) U.S. Service members and non-U.S. citizens who have a lawful U.S. permanent resident card (aka Green Card).

Required Forms to be completed:

- a) USFK Form 163E - Pre-marriage Certification Application (multiple required signatures)
- b) USFK Form 166 - Affidavit of Acknowledgement (Battalion / Squadron or Equivalent level Commander)
- c) USFK Form 41 - Immigration Counseling Certificate (Military Attorney with both the Service member and intended spouse)
- d) DD Form 2808 – Report of Medical Examination (provided by Medical Treatment Facility)
- e) USFK Form 165 – Affidavit of Eligibility for Marriage (final form and only needed if marrying within the ROK) USFK 600- 240, para 1-5.

Required Signatures and their requirements:

- a) Chaplain – USFK 600-240 para 1-5e
- b) Unit Security Officer – USFK 600-240 para 1-5d(8)
- c) Squadron or Equivalent Level Commander – USFK 600-240 para 1-5d, para 2-2, Appendix I
- d) Medical Officer - USFK 600-240 para 1-5g, Appendix G
- e) Legal officer - USFK 600-240 para 1-5f
- f) Verification Authority - Commander, 7th Air Force (this authority was delegated on 28 July 2020 to the following: 7 AF COS, 7 AF/CC, 607th AOC/CC, and 607th ASOG/CC - USFK 600-240, para. 1-5b(2))

Additional Information:

The Service member must provide English translations on all documents not written in English. The English translations of non-Korean documents must be certified by a competent translator and notarized.

Translation services are available at Military OneSource, or locally at:

Koam Certified Public Translator
52 Sinjang-ro, Pyeongtaek-si, Gyeonggi
Phone: +82 031-668-3235

If the Service member's intended spouse is not a Korean national, the Service member must ensure the intended spouse contacts his/her own Embassy for information on what is required to marry in Korea as the procedures followed by other embassies may differ. The Service member must ensure fulfillment of those requirements prior to going to the Korean Ward office.

A common misunderstanding is that parties will be married at the U.S. Embassy; in fact, a Service member and their intended spouse will be married under the laws of Korea. Marriage in Korea is a civil procedure, so a religious ceremony, while often more meaningful, does not create a legal marriage. See USFK 600-240, para 2-3 c.

Please call 784-4131 (0505-784-4131), e-mail 51fw.ja.workflow@us.af.mil, or visit the legal office for additional requirements.