

## More info on FPO Discontinuance

We just confirmed today with the IMCOM Pacific Postal Office that based on newly published DoDI 4525.09, Military Postal Service, that retirees, widows, Red Cross, and others will be losing their overseas mail privileges on 24 August 2022. This was an Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and Military Postal Service Agency (MPSA) unilateral decision.

The impact this will have on the non-SOFA military retiree and widow population is enormous. Some Government mail and checks cannot be mailed to foreign addresses. TRICARE medication received in the mail will not be received. Absentee ballots cannot be mailed, and so forth.

We are asking everyone to contact their elected officials and the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) to voice your displeasure and concern.

- If you do not know your US address, it is your last known address you used in the US before coming to Korea.
- To contact your senators, go to <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>. In the drop-down box choose your state. Under the picture of your senator click on "Contact" and you will be taken to a fill in the blank page to send a message. You will need to do this for each of your senators.
- To contact your congressperson, go to <https://www.house.gov/representa.../find-your-representative>. Enter your home of record zip code and click on the "envelope" link under their picture. You will be taken to a screen to enter your US address. Follow the instructions and you will be taken to a fill in the blank page to send a message.
- To contact the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC), go to <https://veterans.house.gov/contact/>. Click on the "Contact Us" box and you will be taken to a fill in the blank page to send a message.

Other ways to make contact are through FB, and Twitter. I have found an email to send msg's to the Secretary of Defense, [osd.mc-alex.ocmo.mbx.guidance-documents@mail.mil](mailto:osd.mc-alex.ocmo.mbx.guidance-documents@mail.mil) who holds a big part in this decision. Please flood all of their contact venues with letters and messages, and even phone calls, this is that important!!!!!!

Collective and individual failure to quickly contact elected officials will definitely result in the loss of our APO/FPO privileges. Even if you are not personally affected you can write to your elected officials and support your fellow veterans.

If you do not know what to write, you can cut and paste the below message:

It is with great concern I write to you regarding a planned discontinuation of APO/FPO privileges of military retirees and widows living overseas. I have just been informed that my APO/FPO box and privileges will end on August 24, 2022. This is a devastating change which will affect every military retiree living overseas. Not only will it affect the veterans, but also their families and survivors. We have never left the US In our hearts, but it now appears the US Is about to leave us. We military veterans and widows living overseas use the APO/FPO privilege to receive not only mail, but also life saving medications, pension and benefit checks, important Government correspondence, banking needs, and the ability to cast absentee ballots, just to name a few. The alternative is the local foreign postal service, or private companies such as FEDEX. Most foreign postal systems are unfortunately replete with theft, loss and misdirection of important mails and medications. The couriers are extremely expensive and at times also as ineffective as the postal systems. At no time in our history have Veteran benefits and privileges been so fragile as now. In the past twenty years Veterans indisputably earned and promised benefits have been under attack., Once again as U.S. military veterans we are being treated as second class citizens, because for various reasons we have chosen to live outside the US. We are still contributors to the economy of the country we served and still remain patriots and advocates for the United States in the countries where we live. The term expat does not mean no longer a patriot of the US. Many have paid the ultimate price and have survivor spouses worldwide who also contribute. Just because we have chosen to live in quiet solitude, or because our loved one's hail from international locations, seems to be a reason to force us into the forgotten citizen group. I request you give your full attention to change and stop this injustice which is about to be perpetrated. Upon your joining the leadership of those who represent us, just like we who have served in the Armed Forces of America, you took an oath to defend and protect our laws and your fellow citizens. I now request you honor that pledge and ask you to submit legislation to prevent this drastic and extremely damaging change to a community of Americans who have served their country well. At a minimum, hold on the execution of this action, pending a more in-depth review of the impact to veterans and their survivors worldwide.