

## Military Families Get Help Selling Homes When PCSing

The Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Homeowners Assistance Program (HAP) has been expanded to help service members who have received PCS orders and are forced to sell their homes.

The Department of Defense (DoD) could reimburse individuals up to 95 percent of the value lost on the home if it was purchased before July 1, 2006. The DoD also has the option to purchase the home for up to 90 percent of the fair market value. The program is also available to the widows of Defense Department civilian employees killed in the line of duty. It is modeled on an existing DoD program for civilians affected by base closures under BRAC. For more information, please visit the USACE's HAP website at [www.sas.usace.army.mil/hapinv/index.html](http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/hapinv/index.html)

## DoD Schools Raise Age Requirement

A change in entrance age requirements at Department of Defense schools worldwide affects when students start school.

Effective July 2009, students must reach the pre-established age by Sept. 1. Students must be 4 years old to enroll in pre-kindergarten or the Defense Department's Sure Start program. Kindergartners must be 5, and first graders, 6. Under current rules, children have to reach the above ages by Oct. 31.

The Department of Defense Education Activity made the change after research showed that 36 states require kindergartners to be 5 by Sept. 1 or earlier, Marc Mossburg, chief of curriculum for DoDEA, said. "This was done

nationally for a variety of reasons, but it basically gives most kids a sure start in kindergarten and first grade," Mossburg said. "We did make the choice to align ourselves with the nation. We're trying to keep pace with the nation and trying to make sure our military kids have that advantage."

DoDEA's decision to implement the change also was, in part, an effort to ease the transition of students who start in a defense school, but then transfer to a public school, Mossburg said. "We wanted to make sure that our kids, if they go to kindergarten and they transfer to a first grade in the States, that they are ready to enter that first grade," he said.

Consequently, students who have completed a year at an accredited kindergarten and then transfer to a DoDEA school can enroll in first grade regardless of whether they meet the age requirement, Mossburg said. For more information, visit [www.dodea.edu](http://www.dodea.edu)

## OMSG Offers Online Showrooms

The Overseas Military Sales Group (OMSG), which has served the overseas military community for more than four decades as its largest retailer of automobiles and motorcycles, has really gone global—using the World Wide Web for its showroom.

OMSG is authorized to sell under the AAFES/NEXCOM-Exchange New Car Sales Program (ENCSP) and operates in more than 100 offices in 30 countries.

Marketing to today's military can prove to be difficult: service members are scattered across the globe in remote locations, and don't necessarily return to military installations. The showroom at the NEX or AAFES just wasn't enough anymore. Online marketing and digital kiosks were implemented to work in conjunction with face-to-face sales. Given that the Navy wasn't conducive to having showrooms on ships, the newer technologies have had a positive effect.

Traditionally, OMSG has served as the on-base, factory-authorized distributor for vehicles to military personnel stationed, or on TDY assignment, abroad for at least 30 days. To order any vehicle, you need a copy of your orders to prove your time overseas. And you must place your order before you head back to the continental U.S.

OMSG was founded out of necessity, as returning soldiers didn't have a residence and dealers wouldn't sell to them. But it has become the largest retailer to military personnel because it continues to offer one heck of a deal.

Their no-hassle pricing is backed with a 100 percent price protection and a lowest price guarantee. If you get a bona fide lower price on the same vehicle with same options for the same delivery date from a dealer in the U.S., the Military Advantage Program will pay the difference. And you get up to two weeks after delivery to file your claim.

Visit [www.ensc.com](http://www.ensc.com) for more information. ●



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