



Retiree Activities Office

Yokota AB, Japan



Vol. 2, Issue 1

Newsletter

Jan - Feb 2016

A publication of the Yokota Retiree Activities Office (RAO) whose mission is to support the base Commander in providing information and assistance to military retirees, their family members, and surviving spouses residing in the Tokyo Metropolitan area, and surrounding prefectures. Articles appearing in this newsletter are compiled from local sources; newsletters received by the RAO, and U.S. government sources. Information has been edited and reprinted for the benefit of our retiree population. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information herein, no absolute guarantee of accuracy or currency can be given nor should be assumed.

Yokota Tax Center Opening Soon: The Yokota Tax Center will open for business on Monday, February 1, 2016. The Tax Center is located on Airlift Avenue on the 1st Floor of building 315. Once again, free tax preparation and electronic filing of income tax returns will be available to active duty members, civilian employees, military retirees and widows.

Operating hours will be:

Monday & Wednesday – 0900 – 1600

Tuesday & Thursday – 0800 – 1600

Friday, Holidays, Training & Family Days: Closed for appointments

Appointments, can be made by calling:

(DSN) 225-4926 or 225-4927: (From off-base) (042) 225-2510 extension 54926 or 54927

To better assist in you, and to avoid delays in preparing your return, bring the following records to the Tax Center:

- Valid photo identification
- Social Security cards for you, your spouse and dependents, or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) verification letter issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents
- Wage and earning statement(s), such as Forms W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, 1099-Misc, or 1042S
- Interest and dividend statements (Forms 1099)

- Proof of Affordable Health Care coverage (Form 1095B or 1095C)
- A copy of last year's federal and state tax returns, if available
- Checkbook for routing and account numbers for direct deposit of your tax refund
- Total amount paid for day care and day care provider's identifying number. This is usually an Employer Identification Number or Social Security number.
- Other relevant information about income and expenses

If you are married filing a joint return and wish to file electronically, both you and your spouse should be present to sign the required forms. If both cannot be present, you usually must bring a valid power of attorney form along with you. There is a special exception to this rule if your spouse is in a combat zone. The exception allows a spouse to prepare and e-file a joint return with a written statement stating the other spouse is in a combat zone and unable to sign. (Source: Yokota Tax Center & www.IRS.gov)

What's an IRS Form 1095? The **IRS Form 1095 series** informs taxpayers of the information provided to the IRS regarding their healthcare coverage during the tax year. This information will be required as taxpayers complete their 2015 federal tax return.

- **IRS Form 1095-B (for military retirees and annuitants):** This form provides information you will need to report on your income tax return that you, your spouse and individuals you claim as dependents had qualifying health coverage (referred to as "minimum essential coverage") for some or all months during the year. Individuals who do not have minimum essential coverage and do not qualify for an exemption may be liable for the individual shared responsibility payment.
- **IRS Form 1095-C (for military members and federal civilian employees):** This form includes information about the health insurance coverage offered to you by your employer. Form 1095-C, Part II, includes information about the coverage, if any, your employer offered to you and your spouse and dependent(s).

During January 2016, DFAS will begin providing IRS Forms 1095 (C and/or B depending on your status as a military member, military retiree or annuitant, or federal civilian employee). These forms will document the information that DFAS will provide to the IRS on yourself and your authorized family members.

Like your other tax and pay statements, the new forms will be available in your **myPay** account when they are released. If you do not have a DFAS **myPay** account they will be mailed to you. (Source: www.DFAS.mil)

Veterans Affairs (VA) Representative: If you have any questions or concerns that you need VA assistance with, a representative makes monthly scheduled visits to Yokota. Appointments can be made, by calling the Airmen & Family Readiness Center at (DSN) 225-8725/8726 (From off base) (042) 552-2510, ext. 58725/58726. The representative is scheduled to be here on the 27th, 28th & 29th of January 2016, and the 24th, 25th, & 26th of February 2016. (Source: Airman & Family Readiness Center)

Foreign Medical Program (FMP): The Foreign Medical Program (FMP) is a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care benefits program for U.S. Veterans who are residing or traveling abroad and have VA-rated, service-connected disabilities. Under FMP, VA assumes payment responsibility for certain necessary health care services received in foreign countries and associated with the treatment of service-connected disabilities, or any disability associated with and held to be aggravating a service-connected condition. (Veterans living in Canada are under the jurisdiction of FMP; however, inquiries and claims must be directed to the Foreign Countries Operations in Canada. See contact information below.) Additionally, VA may authorize necessary foreign medical services for any condition for a Veteran participating in the VA Vocational Rehabilitation Program (38 U.S.C. 31). For information on how to register please click on the following link. <http://www.va.gov/PURCHASEDCARE/programs/veterans/fmp/index.asp> (Source: www.va.gov)

Best wishes from the RAO staff: It has been our pleasure to serve the military retiree community for the past year and we look forward to doing it again in 2016.



Manny



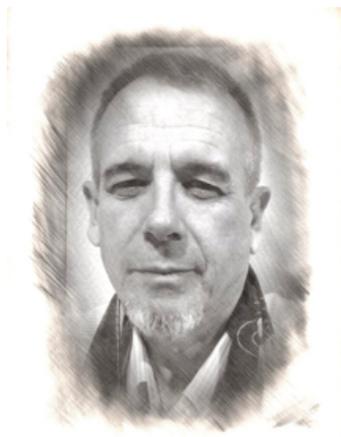
Tony



Victor



Ernie



Jon

Contacting the RAO:

We are located on Friendship Blvd. in building 445, 1st floor

By phone from (DSN): 225-8324

By Phone from off-base (042) 552-2510 extension 58324

Voice mail 24 hours a day

Email: yokota.rao@us.af.mil

Operating hours: 0900-1200 Monday, Thursday, Friday, and 0900-1500 Tuesday and Wednesday.

Don't forget to check out the RAO on Facebook for the latest items of interest to the retiree community. Your comments are always encouraged and appreciated.

If you know of a military retiree or surviving spouse who is not getting our newsletters, please pass on a copy to him/her and tell them to get in contact with the RAO so that we can put them on our e-mailing list.

A thought to start off the New Year:

Without volunteers there would be no Retiree Activities Office.