



Retiree Activities Office

Yokota AB, Japan



Vol. 2, Issue 2

Newsletter

Mar – Apr 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 open for business: As we mentioned in our previous newsletter, the Yokota Tax Center once again is preparing income tax returns free of charge for active duty, military retirees, widows, and civilian employees. The operating hours are Monday through Thursday. Closed during holidays and family days.

Morning appointment schedule - 0800, 0910, 1020

Closed for Lunch - 1130-1230

Afternoon appointment schedule - 1230, 1440, 1550

Telephone numbers to call for an appointment: DSN 225-4926/4927, from off base 552-2510 ext. 54926/54927

The available appointment slots each day are based on the number of volunteers that will be working that they. As the tax season approaches the April 18 (This is not a typo, see below) filing deadline, the number of clients wanting appointments will increase. Please schedule your appointment as soon as possible.

The regular tax return filing deadline is April 15. However, due to the Washington D.C. Emancipation Day holiday being observed on April 15 instead of April 16, 2016, Tax Day is on the following Monday.

U.S. Citizens and others who are required to file a U.S. tax return and are living overseas receive and automatic 60 day extension to file a tax return. However, the caveat here is if you think you are going to owe any taxes for the 2015 tax year, you must at least pay the taxes due by the April 18 deadline. If not, you will incur a penalty in addition to the taxes owed. (Source: Yokota Tax Center, IRS.gov)

Widow's Luncheon: Mrs. Tanquer Dyer the Causality Assistance Representative (CAR) is hosting another quarterly luncheon for widows of retired members, and widows whose spouse passed away while on active duty. The luncheon is scheduled for March 16 (Wednesday) 1200 hours in Building 316. Representatives from the Immunization Clinic and Navy Federal Credit Union are scheduled to attend the luncheon, and will brief on the services they provide. For more information and to RSVP, Mrs. Dyer can be contacted at DSN 225-2066. From off base: 552-2510 extension 52066. Please pass this information on to any widow you may know that does not receive our newsletter. (Source: Yokota CAR)

Veterans Administration (VA) Appointments: If you need to make an appointment to discuss a VA benefit or need help with any other matter relating to VA, the representative is scheduled to be here at Yokota on, 23, 24 and 25 March. The schedule for April was not available when this newsletter was ready for distribution. To make an appointment please call the Yokota Airman & Family Readiness Center (AFRC) at 225-8725 or 225-8726. (Source: Yokota AFRC)

Air Force Retiree Council annual meeting to be held in May: A new co-chairman will share the head of the table at this year's Air Force Retiree Council annual meeting in May. Retired Lt. Gen. Stephen Hoog, who left active duty in October 2015, succeeds retired Lt. Gen. Steven Polk as council co-chair with retired Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney McKinley. The co-chairs serve as personal advisers to the chief of staff and the secretary of the Air Force on all issues regarding retirees and their families.

Meeting at the Air Force Personnel Center, the council receives briefings on today's Air Force structure from senior members of the Air Staff and other Air Force elements. This information helps the 19-member panel address issues submitted from 100 base Retiree Activities Offices worldwide. Subjects range from health care to publication of the Afterburner newsletter to various benefit and entitlement enhancements. Recommendations on key issues are forwarded to the Air Force chief of staff and subject matter experts. (Source: AF Retiree Services)

Link to Retiree Publications:

Army Echoes:

<http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>

Navy Shift Colors:

www.shiftcolors.navy.mil

Air Force Afterburner:

www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner

Marine Corps Semper Fidelis:

www.usmc-mccs.org

Coast Guard Evening Colors:

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg1/psc/ras>

Archived Newsletters: Previous editions of the Yokota RAO Newsletter can now be viewed on the RAO Web Page at: www.yokota.af.mil/library/retireeactivities.asp

How to contact 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.

Stop by and say hello. Visitors are always welcome. 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 distribution.

We are always looking for volunteers to help staff the office.