



Retiree Activities Office

Yokota AB, Japan

Newsletter



Vol. 2, Issue 3

May/June 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 local area. Articles appearing in this newsletter are compiled from various 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.

Everyone needs a DFAS MyPay Account:

A previous newsletter discussed the benefits of establishing a MyPay on-line account with the Defence Finance Accounting Service (DFAS). Everyone receiving a monetary payment from DFAS already has an account. Whether you can access this account via MyPay on-line or have to transact business through the mail is another story.

Many of our older retirees and widows have never established on-line access to their account, and have always relied on DFAS to mail them a copy of their 1099-R, and other tax related documents to their address here in Japan.

This year for whatever reasons, some retirees and widows reported not receiving their year end copy in the mail. Of course panic and concern starts to set in when the required forms to file their income tax return haven't been received on time.

The RAO staff has been busy trying to get another copy mailed out. In some cases we were successful in other we were not. One of the solutions was to establish an on-line MyPay account, then download and print a copy.

Instead of having another repeat next year, the goal

of the RAO is to get as many folks established with an account, so in the future if their 1099-R mailed copy doesn't arrive they can always download one from MyPay. Year end tax documents are usually available for download by the end of January.

There are two steps to establishing an account. The first is to use your SSN to request a temporary password that will be mailed to your address on file with DFAS. The second step once the password has been received is to create the account. The RAO staff is here to assist with this process.

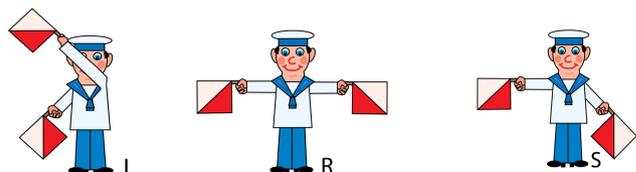
We realise that some of our older retirees and widows do not have a computer at home and probably will never get one. Once an account is established it can be accessed from any computer. Once again the RAO is here to assist. Computers for public use are also available at the Airman & Family Readiness Center and the base Library.

As a reminder for those retirees still working on base who have been using their Common Access Card (CAC) to access their MyPay account: This all goes away once you no longer have a CAC. So if you haven't already established your account now is the time. Don't wait until you no longer have access.

2015 Income Tax Filing:

The April 18th income tax filing date has come and gone. For those of you who have filed your tax returns, now you can sit back and start looking forward to next year. For those of you who have not, there is still time to file.

US Citizens and Resident Aliens living overseas, are granted an automatic extension until June 15th. If you are expecting a refund of taxes paid, you shouldn't have a problem.



However, if you owe any taxes, the IRS will most likely assess interest for not filing by April 18th. The Yokota VITA Tax Center will remain open through June 15th. However, available appointment times may be limited.

Fraudulent SmartDoc e-mail Messages:

BEWARE! Several myPay customers have informed DFAS that fraudulent SmartDocs email messages are being sent that could put your information and finances at risk.

The reported invalid emails contain what appears to be from a valid SmartDocs email address. The originators of these emails have "spoofed" their messages to hide their true origin, and placed the SmartDocs address in the "From" line to make the email appear legitimate.

Valid SmartDocs messages from DFAS are always sent in plain text, do not include attachments and do not ask you to send any information in response. Your email program may automatically convert a valid SmartDocs message into HTML and convert some text into clickable links.

We recommend that you do NOT click on any links within any email message. To access a site

referenced in an email, open your browser and type the link (URL) directly into the browser.

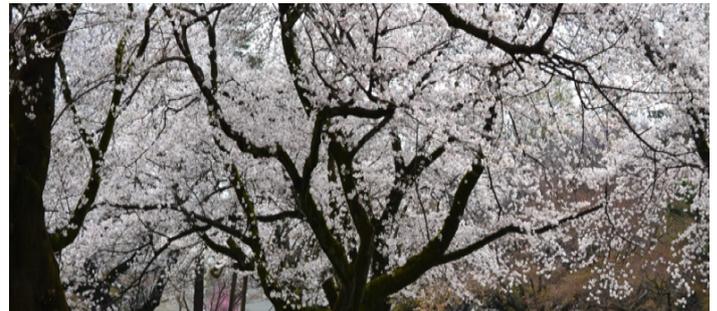
Don't get fooled. If you receive a SmartDocs message that contains a link, don't click on it. If a URL is listed in the message type it in manually within your browser. Delete unexpected or unsolicited messages that contain attachments or that request you to send information back.

Becoming a victim is easy. Utilising a few basic precautions with email handling are critical to protecting your information, finances and identity. (Source: www.DFAS.mil)

Although this article is addressing fraudulent e-mails addressed to DFAS customers, the information here will pertain to any e-mails you suspect may be trying to trick you into releasing your personal information. To err on the side of caution; when in doubt delete the message. (Source: Editor)

Vehicle Decals:

For those non-SOFA retirees and widows who have not already done so, the new vehicle decals are available for pick-up at the Pass and Registration office located inside the Supply Gate (Gate 5). The office closes at 1500 hours, so plan your visit accordingly. The new decal must be displayed on your vehicle's front windshield no later than 1 June 2016.



Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) Closures:

Due to the 374th AW's participation in a Humanity Assistance/Disaster Relief Inspection from 9 May to 13 May 2016 the MTF will be closed with the following listed exceptions.

- * Pharmacy - Expect service delays
- * Laboratory - Expect service delays
- * TRICARE - Expect service delays

In addition the MTF will also be closed all day on:

- 6 May - Wingman Day
- 27 May- Airman Appreciation Day
- 30-31 May - Memorial/Family Day

The following MTF services will be open for normal business.

- * Urgent Care
- * Multiservice Unit

(Source: 374 AW/CC, 374 MDG Facebook Page)

Volunteering at the RAO:

My goal when taking the position of Director was to keep the RAO open as much as possible each week with the ultimate target being a 30-hour week, with the office open 6 hours each day. This would be in line with the operating hours

recommended by Retiree Services at Air Force Headquarters. Thanks to our current group of volunteers, we have been averaging 21 hours each week, still leaving another 9 hours to fill.

Currently the afternoon 1200-1500 shift on Monday, Thursday and Friday has no coverage. One three-hour shift is all we are looking for. If you want to volunteer more that's fine too.

Stop by the RAO, say hello, and stay for awhile to see what we do there.

The main skill you need for this position is being able to communicate with people. However, any other skill you can bring to the table will be wholly appreciated.

In case I forgot to mentioned it, this is not a paid position. Satisfaction in helping the retiree community, and the gratitude of those you lend assistance to is your reward.

Just to name a few; some of the things we've helped retirees and widows with recently have included assistance in obtaining a copy of their annual 1099-R, requesting temporary passwords in order to establish a MyPay DFAS account, preparing income tax returns, and helping widows fill out various forms.



Information about the RAO:

Located: Friendship Blvd. in building 445, 1st floor

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

Telephone: DSN: 225-8324

Telephone from off base: (042) 552-2510 ext. 58324

Voice mail: Leave a message if calling after normal operating hours

E-mail: yokota.rao@us.af.mil

Previous editions of the RAO newsletter can be found at: www.yokota.af.mil/library/retireeactivities/asp

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