



Retiree Activities Office

Yokota AB, Japan

Newsletter



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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.

Longevity Certificate for RAO

Volunteers: It was decided at last year's Air Force Retiree Council that Certificates of Appreciation for Longevity would be awarded to RAO volunteers for their years of volunteer service. Eligibility begins with five years of RAO volunteer service, and for each five-year period afterward.

Mr. Rodney G. Bradish started out as a Yokota RAO volunteer more than 15 years ago. During this period he served as both a staff member and as a Director of the RAO. Recently, Mr. Bradish was presented his certificate which was signed by the council co-chairs by Col. Sergio J Vega Jr the 374AW Vice Commander who is also the Active Coordinator for the Retiree Activities Program here at Yokota. (Source: *Retirees.af.mil*)



Hot Topic: Air Force Clubs is changing the way it does business. the Chase credit card is no longer a requirement for Air Force Clubs membership, and club members can now choose their desired payment method. Membership is now managed through an online portal. Dues remain the same, but club officials say benefits will increase with the new connectivity. For more information, visit <http://www.myairforcelife.com/clubs/cmp.aspx>.

If any of our retirees or surviving spouses here in Japan are experiencing problems with changing

over to the new club card system, please contact the management staff at either the enlisted club or office club for assistance. (Source: *Retirees.af.mil*)

2017 Friendship Festival Visitation

Policy: Specific visitor policies have been established for the 2017 Japanese-American Friendship Festival (FF). Its highly encouraged that Yokota AB personnel have their off-base guests enter through the Supply Gate during FF hours and meet them at a pre-determined location within the designated FF area. If you want your guests to travel outside of the designated FF area, you must comply with the below instructions.

The following visitor policies will be in effect from 15 Sep 17 at 1900 hours until 17 Sep 17 at 2200 hours:

Guests with destinations outside of the designated FF area must be issued a visitor's pass at the Fussa Gate Visitor Control Center.

The sponsor to visitor ratio will be reduced. Each authorized sponsor is limited to 3 guests and 1 vehicle to include children.

Large private events, even those coordinated in advance, if greater than the above ratio, will not be approved during the FF period.

Local nationals found outside of the FF area during festival hours (without sponsor/pass) will be immediately routed back to the FF area or immediately escorted off-base. After FF hours, normal escort rules apply.

Local nationals found outside of the FF area will be stopped, checked for credentials, and handled appropriately. This includes the YCC, Burger King, etc.

Be mindful of your responsibilities when it comes to hosting guests onto Yokota AB. (Source: 374 AW/CC letter dated 17 Aug 2017)

Vocational Rehabilitation and

Employment (VR&E) – overseas: As a Veteran residing overseas, you may be wondering if you are able to participate in the VR&E program...and the answer is Yes!

VR&E Chapter 31 program is available to Veterans residing overseas. To meet the criteria for VR&E overseas, a Veteran must have legal residence in a foreign area. In order to meet this criteria, a Veteran must have one of the following: Veteran has accepted employment overseas, Veteran is married to a foreign national, Veteran is the spouse of an active duty Service member who is assigned overseas, or the Veteran is accompanying his/her spouse who is employed overseas.

If a Veteran meets any of the above criteria he/she may complete and submit a VA form 28-1900, Application for Vocational Rehabilitation. This application may be completed online via [eBenefits](#).

Once this application has been received and processed, the Pittsburgh VR&E will reach out to the Veteran for initial contact via email regarding the VR&E application and will provide documents for the Veteran's completion to assist in the eligibility and entitlement process for VR&E services.

The Veteran will then work with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) who will conduct a comprehensive evaluation and entitlement determination for the VR&E program.

The VRC will also work closely with the Veteran with vocational exploration efforts in order to identify a suitable career goal that will match the Veteran's interests and aptitudes and will be employable in the area for which the Veteran resides.

A rehabilitation plan will be developed, which will outline the Veteran's selected career goal and objectives to achieve this goal. The VR&E program will cover all of the required tuition, fees, books, and supplies associated with the Veteran's program of study.

The Veteran will receive a subsistence allowance that will assist him/her with living expenses while participating in training. If eligible, the Veteran may elect to receive this subsistence allowance at the Post 911 Rate of Pay. In addition to the monetary support, the Veteran will receive case management, follow up counseling, employment assistance, and oversight to facilitate the successful completion of this plan.

Should you have any additional questions regarding

the VR&E program overseas, please contact the Pittsburgh VR&E division at 412-395-6070 or the VA representative here in Japan at the following email: yokosuka.va.rep@gmail.com You can also call the A&FRC at 225-8725 to schedule an appointment with the VA representatives during one of their scheduled visits to Yokota. (Source: www.va.gov)

Yokota Military Retiree Association: The YMRA will hold its next two monthly breakfast meetings on 9 September, and 7 October at 0900 in the enlisted club dining room.

These meetings are open to all military retirees regardless of branch of service, their spouses, and widows of retirees. Breakfast is provided free when you order before 0830. The business side of things starts at 0900.

Widows' Support Luncheon: The next quarterly Widows' Support Luncheon is scheduled for 8 September from 1200-1400 in the auditorium of the Airman & Family Readiness Center (A&FRC), Building 535.

This luncheon is sponsored by the Airman & Family Readiness Center (A&FRC) and is open to widows of military retirees as well as widows whose spouse passed away while on active duty.

This luncheon serves as a venue for the widows to get together and share experiences, and to let them know that they are still part of the overall military family.

If you know of a widow who is not aware of this luncheon please pass this information on. For additional information call the A&FRC at 225-8725 or the RAO at 255-8324

From the RAO staff we wish all of you a safe Labor Day weekend holiday. The 374MDG will be closed on Monday the 4th, with the exception of Urgent Care which will remain open as always.

Your comments concerning articles you see here, or questions concerning military retiree benefits and services are always welcome.

The RAO is located in building 535. Contact us by email at: yokota.rao@us.af.mil. By DSN phone 225-8324, from off base (042) 552-2510 ext. 58324. If you call during non-office hours, leave a message and we will get back to you. The RAO is normally open 0900-1500 Monday thru Friday, closed holidays and family days.