



Retiree Activities Office

Yokota AB, Japan

Newsletter



Vol. 3, Issue 1

January/February 2017

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.

Yokota Tax Center Preparing to Open:

The base Legal Office will be opening the tax center for the 2016 Tax Year on Monday, 30 January 2017 and remain open for business until 15 June 2017. The tax center will be located in building 315, 1st floor.

Appointments will be available Monday through Thursday from 0800 - 1600 and can be made by calling DSN 225-4926/4927. If calling from off base: 042-552-2510, wait for tone, then 54926/54927.

Tax preparation and e-filing of tax returns is free to the following persons:

Active duty members of the Armed Forces, Guard/Reserve members on Title 10, or Title 32 orders, Military Retirees, Widowed spouses, DoD Civilian Employees assigned outside of the USA, and Dependents entitled to an ID card.

Depending on your particular tax situation, these are documents to bring to your appointment. You may have forms and documents not listed below; so if in doubt, bring them with you.

- A copy of last year's tax return.
- Social Security Cards/ITIN letters for yourself, spouse, and dependents.
- Form W2 Wage and Tax Statement Forms
- Form W2G Gambling Winnings
- Form 1099s
- Form SSA-1099/1042S
- Form 1098s
- Income and expenses related to Rental Property.

O1/O2 and E6 and below will be given priority for February appointments.

The tax center relies solely on volunteers to man the center. The availability of appointments depends on the number of volunteers working on a particular day. (Source: Yokota Tax Center)

VA National Cemeteries Now Offering Pre-Need Eligibility Determinations

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced it now provides eligibility determinations for interment in a VA national cemetery prior to the time of need. Through the [Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility Program](http://www.cem.va.gov/pre-need/), <http://www.cem.va.gov/pre-need/> upon request, individuals can learn if they are eligible for burial or memorialisation in a VA national cemetery.

Interested individuals may submit [VA Form 40-10007](#), *Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery*, and supporting documentation, such as a DD Form 214, if readily available, to the VA National Cemetery Scheduling Office by: toll-free fax at 1-855-840-8299; email to Eligibility.PreNeed@va.gov; or mail to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151.

VA will review applications and provide written notice of its determination of eligibility. VA will save determinations and supporting documentation in an electronic information system to expedite burial arrangements at the time of need. Because laws and personal circumstances change, upon receipt of a burial request, VA will validate all pre-need determinations in accordance with the laws in effect at that time.

VA operates 135 national cemeteries and 33 soldiers' lots in 40 states and Puerto Rico. More than 4 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict, are buried in VA's national cemeteries. VA also provides funding to establish, expand and maintain 105 Veterans cemeteries in 47 states and territories including tribal trust lands, Guam, and Saipan. For Veterans buried in private or other cemeteries, VA provides headstones, markers or medallions to commemorate their service. In 2016, VA honoured more than 345,000 Veterans and their loved ones with memorial benefits in national, state, tribal and private

Eligible individuals are entitled to burial in any open VA national cemetery, opening/closing of the grave, a grave liner, perpetual care of the gravesite, and a government-furnished headstone or marker or niche cover, all at no cost to the family. Veterans are also eligible for a burial flag and may be eligible for a Presidential Memorial Certificate. Information on VA burial benefits is available from local VA national cemetery offices, from the Internet at www.cem.va.gov, or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 800-827-1000. To make burial arrangements at any open VA national cemetery at the time of need, call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117.

(Source: Veterans Administration)

VA Benefits Description:

Disability Compensation is a tax free monetary benefit paid to Veterans with disabilities that are the result of a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service. Compensation may also be paid for post-service disabilities that are considered related or secondary to disabilities occurring in service and for disabilities presumed to be related to circumstances of military service, even though they may arise after service. Generally, the degrees of disability specified are also designed to compensate for considerable loss of working time from exacerbations or illnesses.

[Learn More](#)

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a tax free monetary benefit generally payable to a surviving spouse, child, or parent of Service members who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training or survivors of Veterans who died from their service-connected disabilities. [DIC for parents](#) is an income based benefit. [Learn More](#)

Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) is an additional tax-free benefit that can be paid to Veterans, their spouses, surviving spouses and parents. For Veterans, Special Monthly Compensation is a higher rate of compensation paid due to special circumstances such as the need of aid and attendance by another person or a specific disability, such as loss of use of one hand or leg. For spouses and surviving spouses, this benefit is commonly referred to as aid and attendance and is paid based on the need of aid and attendance by another person. [Learn about special monthly compensation benefit rates](#)

Other Benefits: VA provides additional housing and insurance benefits to Veterans with disabilities, including [Adapted Housing grants](#), [Service-Disable Veterans' Insurance](#), and [Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance](#). (Source: Veterans Administration)

New Casualty Assistance Representative (CAR):

The RAO would like to welcome Mr. Thomas Determann who has just recently arrived on Yokota to fill the CAR position at the Airman & Family Readiness Center. Mr. Determann comes to us from Kadena AB, Okinawa where he also was the CAR.

Yokota Military Retiree Association (YMRA):

The YMRA is scheduled to hold its next three monthly Breakfast meetings on 14 January, 4 February, and 4 March at 0900 in the enlisted club dining room.

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

The YMRA normally meets the first Saturday of every Month, (unless circumstances dictate different).

I've invited the newly arrived Casualty Assistance Representative, Mr. Thomas Determann, himself a USAF retiree to the January meeting so that he can introduce himself and maybe say a few words.

374 Medical Group Closures for January 2017:

16-17 January - MLK Federal Holiday/Family Day

23 January - Exercise/Inspection Day

Please plan accordingly.

Urgent Care and the Inpatient Unit will remain open for urgent issues.

For Emergencies, Please Dial:

On-Base - 911

Off Base - 119

From Cell Phone - 042-552-2510 Wait for tone, then 911

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, wait for the tone, then 58725/58726

Best wishes from the RAO staff: It has been our pleasure to have served the military retiree community for the past year and we look forward to doing it again in 2017.



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Located: Building 535 (A&FRC), Rm 108

Office hours: Monday to Friday 0900-1500 Hours, Closed Holidays and Family days

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

Visit us on Facebook

Previous editions of the RAO newsletter can be found at: <http://www.yokota.af.mil/RetireeActivities.aspx>