



Retiree Activities Office

Yokota AB, Japan

Newsletter



Vol. 5, Issue 2

Volunteers Assisting the Retiree Community

April/May 2019

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.

Allergy Season is here: The new Pharmacist-Run Clinic at the 374 Medical Group hospital can help!

- Check in at the Pharmacy and a Pharm D. will evaluate you and provide over-the-counter medications to treat your symptoms.
- NO appointment necessary
- Will treat ACUTE symptoms of
 - Seasonal Allergies
 - Cough
 - Cold
 - Fever
 - Aches and Pains
- Eligible: Active duty, retirees, and their dependents over 18 years of age.
- Not Eligible if PRP, on flying status, firearm carrier, or self-pay patient (Source: 374 MDG)

Yokota Tax Center: As of March 11th the tax center has been accepting appointments from all DoD ID card holders. Only persons assigned to Yokota or living in the Yokota area will be eligible to make appointments. If anyone needs clarification on this policy, please contact the tax center directly.

This year April 15th is the normal tax filing deadline. This means that if you owe any taxes due they need to be paid up by this date. Overseas filers get an automatic extension to June 15th. However, if you owe taxes you could be assessed a penalty for filing after April 15th.

Tax appointments can be made by calling DSN 225-4926 or 4927. From off-base: 042-552-2510 ext 54926 or 54927. Appointments can also be made by going to the tax center located in the 1st floor of building 315. (Source: Yokota Tax Center)

New Medicare Cards: Many of you that are on Medicare probably have already received a letter from the Department of Health and Human Services stating that a new Medicare card with a number that is unique to you is being issued to replace the old card that uses your social security number. However, cards are not being mailed out to people with overseas addresses.

Contact the Federal Benefits Unit (FBU) at the Tokyo American Embassy to ask for their assistance in obtaining the new card.

Email: FBU.Tokyo@ssa.gov

Fax: 03-3224-5144

Phone: 03-3224-5225 (Tuesday & Thursday 9 AM - 12 Noon (Source: Yokota RAO)

American Embassy Outreach: The Embassy is due to come to Yokota Air Base on 22 May 2019. As of this publishing the RAO does not have a venue or the exact times they will be here at Yokota. When we get this information we will get it out via e-mail and post it on our Facebook page.

As in the past they will be providing a number of services and answering and assisting you with questions you may have. This would be a good time to inquire about obtaining your new Medicare card and number.

The folks at the 374th Forces Support Squadron who are sponsoring the Embassy visit would like to get some kind of head count as to how many potential individuals might need to use the services of the Embassy. Please call our office or send us an e-mail message as soon as possible so we can pass this information on. This Embassy will continue these visits as long as they see that a need exists. (Source: 374 FSS)

374th Medical Group Closure Date:
18 April - Medical Group Training Day

Plan your visits accordingly. As usual the Urgent Care and Inpatient Unit will remain OPEN. (Source: 374 MDG)

Visiting The U.S. Embassy or Consulate:

The Tokyo American Embassy does not store prohibited items for applicants. There is no facility at the Embassy to store such items, so you must make arrangements to store these items elsewhere before you enter. If you arrive with a prohibited item, you will be turned away and asked to make a new appointment.

You are allowed to bring the following items into the Embassy:

- One cellphone
- One small purse that can be carried by hand (no larger than 10"x10")
- Clear plastic folders containing application-related papers
- Umbrella (which must be stored in the umbrella rack outside the security gate)

You are NOT allowed to enter the embassy while carrying any of the following items:

- Battery-operated or electronic devices such as laptops, iPads, thumb drives, digital diaries, smart watches, pagers, cameras, audio/video cassettes, compact discs, MP3s, floppy disks, or portable music players

- Any luggage or bags larger than the size noted above (10"x10") such as backpacks, briefcases, travel bags, suitcases
- Food items
- Cigarettes cigars, match boxes, lighters
- Sharp objects such as scissors, pen knives or nail files
- Weapons or explosive materials of any kind

This list is not all inclusive. Other items may be prohibited at the discretion of the security staff.

Due to security considerations, there is no information window for walk-in-visitors at the Embassy. Only applicants with scheduled interviews will be admitted.

If you have business at the Embassy you must schedule an appointment via one of the methods listed previously in this newsletter. *(Source: Tokyo U.S. Embassy)*

Yokota Military Retiree Association

(YMRA): The YMRA will be holding its next Two business breakfast meetings on Saturday, 6 April and Saturday 4 May in the Yokota Enlisted Club dining room. All retirees, their spouses and widows of retirees regardless of branch of service are invited.

The business side of things starts at 0900. You can order breakfast until 0830. *(Source: Yokota RAO)*

RAO Contact Information:

Located: Building 535, (Airman & Family Readiness Center), Room 108

Office hours: 0900-1500 Monday through Friday. Closed Holidays & 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

URL: The RAO has a web page at: www.yokota.af.mil where you can find previous editions of our newsletters and links to other sites that may be of interest.

Facebook: Look for information of interest to the Retiree Community on the Yokota facebook page