



Retiree Activities Office

Yokota AB, Japan

Newsletter



Vol. 5, Issue 3

Volunteers Assisting the Retiree Community

June/July 2019

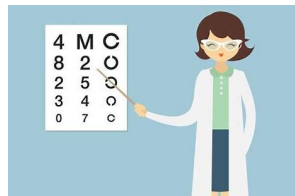
A publication of the Yokota Retiree Activities Office (RAO) whose mission is to support the base commander in providing information and assistance to military retirees, their family members, and surviving spouses residing in the local area. Articles appearing in this newsletter are compiled from various 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.

Yokota Tax Center Closing:

Since late January the Yokota Tax Center manned by volunteer tax preparers has been assisting the Yokota community (Active duty, DoD civilians, dependents, retirees and surviving spouses) with free tax preparation services. On 15 June 2019 the tax filing season for overseas filers will be ending. Because the 15th is on a Saturday and the Tax Center normally closes on Fridays, the last day the Tax Center will be open for business is the 13th of June. (Source: Yokota Tax Center)



374th Medical Group Optometry Clinic:



The Optometry Clinic will be closed **10-14 June** due to relocation to the 3rd floor. During the period **24 June - 18 July 2019** Optometry access will be limited to Active Duty only. Non-Active Duty may still

be seen on a space-A basis during this time. Appointments can be made by calling the Appointment Line at 225-8864.

Clinic Hours:

Monday/Wednesday 0730-1600

Tuesday/Thursday 0730-1530

Friday 0730-1130

(Closed 12-1230 for lunch)

(Source: 374 MDG)

VA Foreign Medical Program (FMP):

The Foreign Medical Program (FMP) is a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care benefits program for U.S. Veterans who are residing or traveling abroad and have VA-rated, service connected disabilities. Under FMP, VA assumes payment responsibility for certain necessary health care services received in a foreign country and associated with the treatment of service-connected



disabilities, or any disability associated with and held to be aggravating a service-connected condition. Additionally, VA may authorize necessary foreign medical services for any condition for a Veteran participating in the VA Vocational Rehabilitation Program (38 U.S.C. 31). For more information, to include how to register and submit claims for reimbursement, please visit <https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/fmp> (Source: www.VA.gov)

eBenefits:



What is eBenefits?

eBenefits is a joint VA/DoD web portal that provides resources and self-service capabilities to veterans, Service members, and their families to research, access and manage their VA and military benefits and personal information. eBenefits uses secure credentials to allow access to personal information and gives users the ability to perform numerous self-service functions. It also provides a list of links to other sites that provide information about military and Veteran benefits. It is an essential way for Veterans, Service members, and their families to receive access to and service from VA and DoD.

What can I do in eBenefits? Some of the features within eBenefits allow Veterans and Service members to access official military personnel documents, view the status of their disability compensation claim, transfer entitlements of Post-9/11 GI Bill to eligible dependents (Service members only), and register for and update direct deposit information for certain benefits.

How do I access eBenefits? eBenefits is located at www.ebenefits.va.gov. Before Veterans can access and use eBenefits they must be listed in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and obtain a DS Login. Note: If Veterans attempt to register and are informed they have no DEERS record, VA will first need to verify their military service and add them to DEERS.

What is a DS Logon? A DS logon is a secure identity (username and password) that is used by various DoD and VA websites, including eBenefits. If you are already registered in DEERS, you are eligible for a DS Logon. Once you have a DS Logon, it's valid for the rest of your life.



How do you register for an eBenefits account?

You can register for an eBenefits account online using the eBenefits DS Logon Account Registration Wizard. There are two types of registration, Basic and Premium. You will be walked through a series of questions to assist you in obtaining a Premium eBenefits Account, which gives you the highest level of access to eBenefits features. With a Premium Account you can view personal data about yourself in VA and DoD systems, apply for benefits online, check the status of your claims, update address records and more. To get a Premium eBenefits Account, you must verify your identity.

Military retirees may verify their identity online using their Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Logon. For those unable to verify their identity online, you will instantly receive a Basic Account. A basic eBenefits Account lets you customize the site and access information you enter into eBenefits; however, you cannot see your personal information in VA or DoD systems. However, there are other options available to you. Veterans in receipt of VA benefits via direct deposit may have their identity verified by calling 1-800-827-1000 and selecting option 7. Others may need to visit a VA Regional Office or TriCare Service Center to have their identities verified in person.



As mentioned earlier in this article you can visit www.benefits.va.gov to get the process started.
(Source: www.eBenefits.va.gov)

Additional 374th Medical Group

Closures for June: The Medical group will be closed on the following days:

14 June: MDG Official Function
20 June: Training Day



The Urgent Care Clinic and Inpatient Unit will remain Open. (Source: 374 MDG)

Widows' Support Luncheon:

The next quarterly Widows' Support Luncheon is scheduled for 14 June 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

Yokota Military Retiree Association

(YMRA): The YMRA is scheduled to hold its next two breakfast meetings on 1 June and 6 July in the Enlisted Club dining room. Membership in the YMRA is free and is open to all military retirees regardless of branch of service, their spouses, and surviving spouses. Breakfast is served until 0830 and the business side of things starts at 0900.

RAO Contact Information:

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

Office Hours: 0900-1500 Monday - Friday, closed U.S. Holidays, and Base Family Days.

Telephone: DSN: 225-8324, From off base: 042-552-2510, ext. 58324

Voice mail: Leave a message if calling after normal operating hours and we will get back to you.

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

Web Page: www.yokota.af.mil (previous editions of our newsletters and links to other sites that may be of interest to the retiree community).

Facebook: Located on the Yokota Air Base facebook page and contains information of interest to the retiree community.