



WELCOME TO MACS-4

**A quick guide to get you started in
Okinawa**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01

Welcome Letter

02

Housing

03

Car/ License

04

Phone/ Medical and Dental

05

Pets

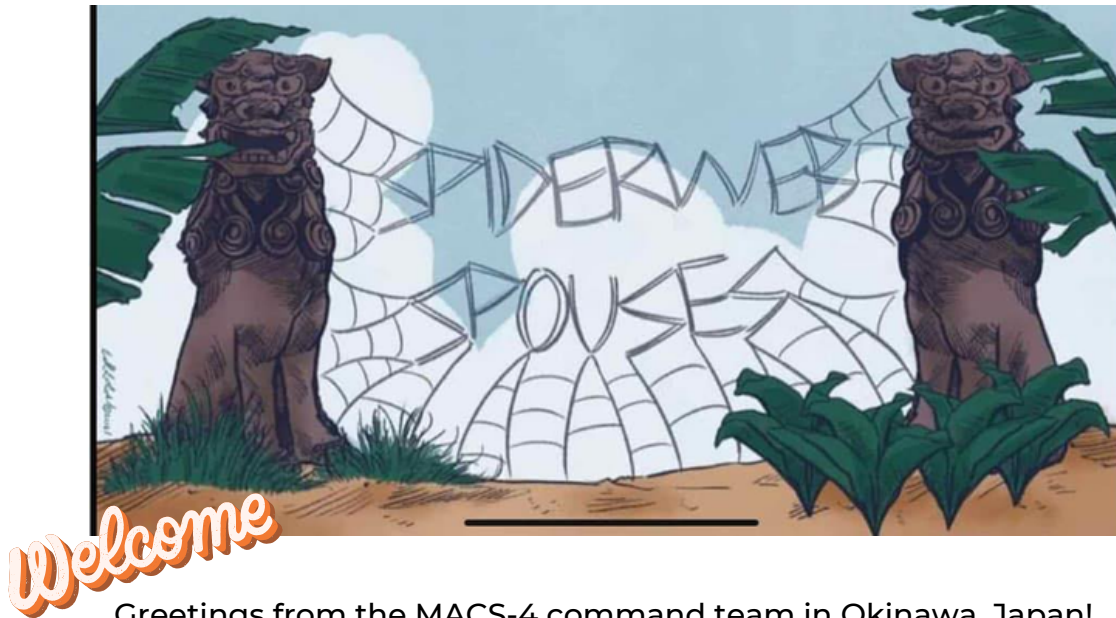
06

Schools and Sports

07

Facebook Links

This packet contains general information and is subject to change. Please reach out to your sponsor for more details or questions.
Thank you.



Greetings from the MACS-4 command team in Okinawa, Japan!

We welcome you and are excited that you will be joining the MACS-4 family. Living in Okinawa is an exciting opportunity, and we hope you enjoy your time on this beautiful island.

Moving overseas is certainly a time-consuming and challenging process, so one of our primary goals is to help make your transition smoother. We have created this welcome packet to provide some helpful resources for housing, cars, driver's licenses, phones, medical, dental, pets, schools, sports, and Facebook links.



We want to connect with you. After all, life is better with friends! Joining the spouses' Facebook page is a great place to start--access the QR code below. The MACS-4 Okinawa Spouses (Unofficial) page contains photos, flyers, links, and signups for upcoming events. Check out some of our past activities—we want you to join us!

Are you interested in joining the command team? We have monthly meetings where we plan our amazing events. All spouses are welcome to attend--we'd love to hear your thoughts.



Don't be afraid to ask questions. Please let us know how we can support you. We look forward to meeting you in person to welcome you to MACS-4!



HOUSING

Once you get orders, you may be wondering, "Where are we going to live?" The housing office operates differently here, and you may not know where you will be living until you get on the island.

Be prepared to live in a hotel for at least 2 weeks.



MACS-4 is located on MCAS Futenma. If you are living on base, your options could be Camp Kinser, Camp Lester, and Camp Foster. MCAS Futenma does not have family housing on base.

Port to Home Program

- This is a recent development where you can work with your sponsor to sign for an on-base house before you arrive. You may move in as soon as you get on the island.
- If you have pets and plan to live on base, we highly suggest looking into this option.
- Family Housing link:
https://www.kadena.af.mil/Kadena_Housing_Office/

Off-Base Housing

- If you are assigned off-base housing, here are some great areas to start looking...
 - Ginowan
 - Chatan
 - Sunabe
 - Okinawa City
 - Yomitan

CAR/LICENSE

How do I get a car so I can go explore this wonderful little island?!

After you attend the New Join Brief, you'll take the test for your SOFA driver's license. Make sure to study all the road signs because you will have to match them. The test also contains multiple-choice questions.

Here is a link that includes vehicle information along with the driver's study guide:
<https://www.mcipac.marines.mil/Staff-and-Sections/Special-Staff/Safety-Office/Okinawa-Driving/>



Used cars are extremely cheap here compared to the states. You can either buy a car from someone who is selling theirs, or you can go through a dealership. The dealerships tend to be a bit more expensive, but you get a warranty and other perks. You should expect to pay roughly \$1000-\$6000 for a vehicle. Additionally, road tax must be paid every year, and JCI inspection is conducted every 2 years. Vehicle registration and insurance paperwork can be completed on base.

Car Dealerships

- BC Motors
- Johnny's
- Payless Motors
- U.S. Auto Sales
- Pit Stop
- Auto Shop Z

From Someone- Join these FB Groups

- Best Used Cars In Okinawa
- Okinawa Used Car Sales
- Okinawa PCS Yard Sales
- Or ask your sponsor if they know anyone leaving who is selling their vehicle.

PHONE



How do I call back home or call locally in Japan?

There are different options and opinions:

- If you want to keep your stateside phone number, use T-Mobile or Google Fi.
- You can also get a Japanese phone and number through AU or SoftBank (both are located on base).
- Another option is having both an American number and a Japanese number through a virtual SIM card.
- Making calls on Wi-Fi through FaceTime, WhatsApp, and other apps is another great way to cut down on cost.

MEDICAL/DENTAL

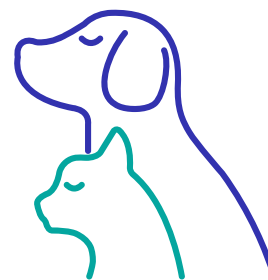
Where do I go for medical and dental care? Can I go off base?

Healthcare is provided through the Naval Hospital Okinawa that is located on Camp Foster with branch clinics on Futenma and Kinser. Sign up for TRICARE Online to make appointments, see your health record, and use secure messaging to talk with your provider. <https://www.tricareonline.com/>

There is Urgent Care at the Naval Hospital on SATURDAYS ONLY. They are open 10am to 6pm by appointment only by calling DSN 646-7311 or 098-971-7311. If you or a family member needs medical attention for emergencies or outside of a scheduled appointment time, proceed directly to the ER.



Dental care is provided on base, but you also have the option to go off base. Okinawa White Dental and Sakura Dental Care are two places out in town that take Tricare. Both of these places out in town have friendly staff who are great with kids. Sometimes, Saturday appointments are available as well.



What's the process for bringing our furry ones with us?

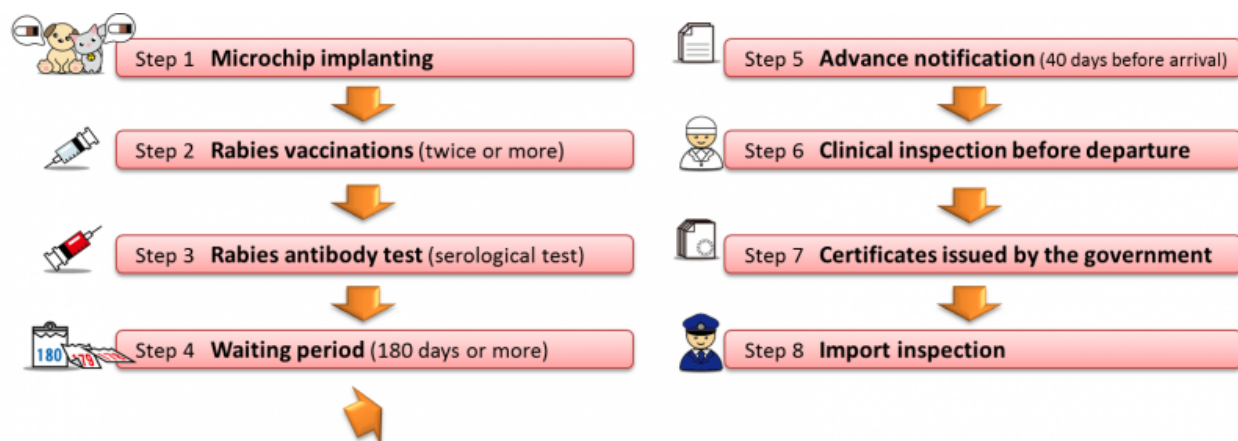
The process is a LONG one, so you want to start that right away. Access this link to read more about traveling with pets in Okinawa:

<https://www.3rdmfg.marines.mil/petsinokinawa/>

Your pet must be microchipped and needs the FAVN test for rabies. Please follow the proper steps for documentation and testing. Here are two links with awesome information and flowcharts for you to follow.

<https://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/import-other.html>

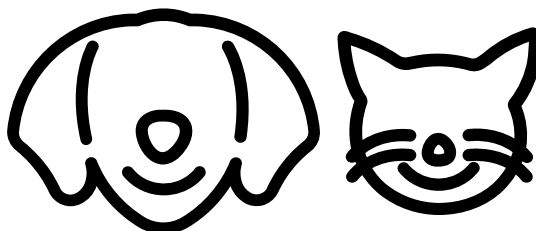
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/by-country/pettravel-japan>



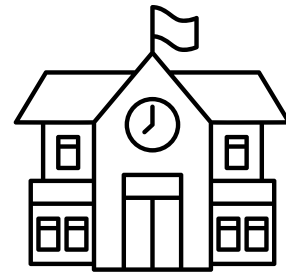
The base vet at military veterinary treatment facilities should be able to access the most current information to help you prepare your pet for travel to Okinawa.

If you have further questions or need more clarification, contact the vet over here on Kadena Air Base. You can contact them by phone, or they respond to messages on Facebook.

 Kadena Veterinary Activity



SCHOOLS



Where will my kids go to school, and can they go to Japanese schools off base?

DODEA On-Base Schools

Camp Foster
Killian ES
Zukeran ES
Kubasaki HS

Camp Lester
Lester MS

Camp Kinser
Kinser ES

There are also CDCs, SAC, Sure Start, and Youth Centers on base to help with childcare.

Off-Base Schools

Many people choose to send their kids to preschool and kindergarten off base. You can send them off base for other grades as well. Here are some off-base preschools and international schools.

- Sunshine Montessori
- Golden Minds Achievers
- Santa Monica International School
- Hope International Academy
- Rainbow Montessori
- St. Josephine Montessori
- Little Star Montessori
- and many more!



Many people homeschool on this island! If this is something that you are interested in, we suggest joining the Okinawa Homeschool Group on Facebook. In that group, you can ask questions and learn about different homeschool co-ops.

YOUTH SPORTS



Gymnastics is located on either Camp Foster or Kadena Air Base.

Okinawa School of Performing Arts (on FB) does ballet and dance classes.

Search for MCCS Okinawa in Eventbrite to find registration for soccer, T-ball, and other sports.

THE ISLAND RUNS OFF FACEBOOK

If you were thinking of taking a social media break, think again. Businesses and various groups use Facebook and Instagram to advertise and get the word out. Here is a list of groups and pages to check out!

YARD SALE OR B/T/S PAGES

- Okinawa Yard Sales - Active Page
- Okinawa PCS Yard Sales
- Okinawa Party Decor BST
- Okinawa Baby, Maternity Kids Yard Sale

MILITARY RELATED

- MACS-4 Okinawa Spouses (Unofficial)
- USO Pages (Foster, Futenma, Kinser, Kadena)
- Base/Neighborhood Group
- Base Thrift Stores
- Marine Gift Shop
- Fleet Gift Shop
- MCCA Okinawa

OKINAWA GROUPS/PAGES

- Living in Japan: Cultural Awareness and Tips
- Okinawa Typhoon Prep
- Okinawa Pin Drops
- Kids in Oki
- Oki Peeps
- Moms of Okinawa
- Hike Okinawa
- Okinawa Home Design
- Parks in Okinawa
- USMC PCS Support
- Okinawa Dress Exchange
- Okinawa Parents with ADHD Children
- Farmer's Market of Okinawa
- Oki_Outings

