

The Green Knight's Guide to Iwakuni

MOVING to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan



Welcome to VMFA 121!

Message from the Commanding Officer:

Konnichiwa from Iwakuni and welcome to the Green Knight Family. You and your family are about to embark on a challenging, but rewarding PCS move. This Green Book is an effort to help address some of those challenges and give you some assurance that the Green Knights are here to support you in every way we can. It was put together by several of our spouses with input from many of our families past and present. It isn't perfect nor does it address every single challenge that may arise, but it is my hope that this information will help make your PCS and arrival to Iwakuni as smooth as possible.

I'm very excited to have you aboard and wish you the best. See you soon.

Message from the SgtMaj;

Welcome to the Green Knight Family, your arrival to VMFA-121 & MCAS Iwakuni is an exciting opportunity and potentially a stressful one. Many of the "Ladies" of the Green Knights took the time to compile this information, hopefully assisting in making your transition smooth and stress free. In this packet you will find information that was found to be useful, in dealing with a lot of the stressors related to moving overseas. The end state is to get you and those with families situated as quickly and seamlessly as possible, assimilating you into the squadron. The Commanding Officer and I look forward to your arrival, welcome aboard and Semper Fidelis!

This Command Team is committed to supporting you and your family while stationed here at MCAS Iwakuni. If you encounter any serious problems with your PCS or during your tour, please reach out through the chain of command for support.

Outside of their service member, the primary contacts for dependents will be the Unit Readiness Coordinator (URC) and the Deployment Readiness Coordinator (DRC). They are the official positions through which the Command Team communicates with spouses. Because the people in these positions do rotate, you will receive the current names and contact information upon arrival. Please refer to the following websites for more details.

<https://www.1stmaw.marines.mil/Subordinate-Units/Marine-Aircraft-Group-12/VMFA-121/Family/>

<https://mccsiwakuni.com/home/marine-family/ppr/mcftb/fros/>

Table of Contents

Welcome to VMFA 121!	2
Welcome to MCAS Iwakuni!	4
SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM	5
MEDICAL SCREENING	6
PASSPORTS	7
DOCUMENTS	11
PET INFORMATION	12
Pets on Base	12
Traveling with Your Pets	14
YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY	17
Shipments	17
Other	19
Personal Vehicles	20
TRAVELING TO JAPAN	22
BASE HOUSING	24
MCAS IWAKUNI MEDICAL & DENTAL	29
Branch Health Clinic	29
Dental	30
EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE	31
MCCS Childcare	31
Welcome Aboard Childcare	31
Other Childcare Options	32
Education – Under 18	32
Adult Education Opportunities	36
Language Classes	37
EMPLOYMENT	38
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	41
IWAKUNI BASICS	42
TRANSPORTATION IN IWAKUNI	46
Getting Around Base / Town	46
Automobiles	47
COMMUNICATION & MEDIA	51
POSTAL SERVICE IN JAPAN	53
BANKING IN JAPAN	55
MARINE COMMANDS ABOARD MCAS IWAKUNI	60
DISCLAIMER	63

Welcome to MCAS Iwakuni!

Whether this is your first OCONUS PCS or your fourth, we hope this book helps prepare you with localized information.

Please keep in mind that MCAS Iwakuni is a station in flux. We try to provide the appropriate websites to check out for official information, but names, phone numbers, and even service center titles can change over time. Please make sure to check with official sources and to engage the service member in all planning and execution processes.

During the first week you arrive in Iwakuni, you will be required to attend a Welcome Aboard Briefing. If you have children, there is space reserved in the child care centers for them during this briefing. We strongly recommend taking notes during this briefing. There is a lot of information that will make more sense after you have been on station for a few weeks or months. You will also be presented with packets of information with more details about life and services here. These packets will have the most recent and updated information available. The WAB is held every Monday (except Federal Holidays) from 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM at Club Iwakuni.

If you need childcare during the briefing, please go to pg. 26 for form links. You will also need to bring shot records for each child.

You will find many phone numbers listed in this packet. Please refer back to this handy guide to determine how to dial them from different phones.

DSN Phone number to call from direct line on base. Can be adapted for US and Japanese phones.

How to Call:

253 DSN number from a Japanese number: **0827-79-xxxx** (the last four digits after 253-)

255 DSN number from a Japanese number: **0827-94-xxxx** (the last four digits after 255-)

253 DSN number from a U.S. number: **011-81-82-779-xxxx** (the last four digits after 253-)

255 DSN number from a U.S. number: **011-81-82-294-xxxx** (the last four digits after 255-)

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

A sponsor's role is to provide needed assistance and a warm "welcome" to personnel relocating to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. A sponsor should help newcomers "settle-in" by providing reliable information, introducing them to members of the unit and showing them around the base and local community.

Newcomers and sponsors are matched according to marital status, job specialty and rank/grade. Once a sponsor is assigned to you, the sponsor will make contact. Your sponsor is responsible to assist with the following areas prior to your arrival:

- Travelling to base if you are not arriving via the Patriot Express
- Scheduling an appointment with the family housing office for the servicemember
- Making temporary lodging reservations at the Temporary Lodging Facilities (TLF)
- Setting up a post office box
- Reserving space for childcare during the Welcome Aboard briefing
 - You must attend the Welcome Aboard briefing to obtain a SOFA status driver's license
- Contacting DOD schools for registration

For Japan, only E1-5, O1-3, and WO1-2 are REQUIRED to have a sponsor.

If you want to request a sponsor and have not already been assigned one, the service member must submit a NAVMC 11799 to the joining command S-1.

(Adapted from MCCS Sponsorship Program Handbook, and MCO 1320.11G)

MEDICAL SCREENING

The purpose of an Overseas Suitability Screening (OSS) is to identify medical, dental, educational and potential duty limiting conditions or requirements of both service and family members. Completing a screening will ensure that both the family and service member are qualified for overseas, operational duty, and remote duty assignments. For the best medical care or education, sometimes an overseas tour is not in the service or family member's best interest.

The health clinic here at MCAS Iwakuni has extremely limited resources, so it is crucial to confirm you are cleared to ensure they can support your physical and mental health needs.

The OSS process is required to be completed within 30 days of receipt of orders. It is important that an OSS is thoroughly completed on each service and family member that is to come overseas.

Follow these steps to complete medical clearance for EVERY dependent on the overseas orders:

- Take web orders to closest military medical facility and obtain area clearance paperwork. Area clearance will typically include:
 - Dental appointment(s), consultation, and obtaining records.
 - Medical appointment(s), consultation, and obtaining all medical records to include any non-military specialists.
 - School district clearance for pre-school aged children.
 - Any additional information requested as needed based on individual family's needs.
 - Ensure eligible family members with special needs, whether it be medical, educational or both, are enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP).
- Follow guidance from military medical screener and complete provided forms required to expedite the screening process. Screening will be delayed without complete information. You can find many of the screening forms at <https://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhcq/Clinics/Main/Patients/Pages/ssFORMS.aspx> Filling out the DD2807 and NAVOERS 1300/1 prior to your screening appointment will help expedite the process.
- When complete, return to military medical facility and schedule an appointment with overseas screener.

For further details and to address specific questions about any related OSS issues, please see your area screener. The screener will be able to go into greater detail and answer inquiries pertaining to your specific situation.

For more information - <http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhyoko/Pages/OverseasScreening.aspx>

PASSPORTS

Please check your orders – they likely state that you are required to have a no-fee passport for entry to Japan. If you arrive on the Patriot Express, your passports will be stamped when you enter through customs with your SOFA status and visa. If you do not receive this stamp (either through customs, or because you arrived via commercial travel), please visit the PMO office as soon as possible so it can be added. These stamps can also be added to your tourist passport, to enable leisure travel in and out of Japan.

You will need to fill out a separate form for each member of your family. This includes newborns, infants, and small children! ***Any family member going to Japan, MUST have a military issued No-Fee Passport.***

Applying for your No-Fee Passport

You will need various documents for this process to be completed. They must all be ORIGINAL documents. These documents will be sent in with your application. The passport office will mail the forms back to you with the passport. The original documents you will need are:

- Proof of citizenship document
 - US Birth Certificate
 - Issued by the City, County, or State of birth (NOT the hospital)
 - Lists bearer's full name, date of birth, and place of birth
 - Lists parent(s) full names
 - Has date filed with registrar's office (must be within one year of birth)
 - Has registrar's signature
 - Has embossed, impressed, or multicolored seal of registrar
 - Previously issued, undamaged, and fully valid U.S. Passport (5 year for minors or 10 years for adults)
 - Consular Certificate of Birth Abroad
 - This certificate is issued by the US Embassy of the country you were born as proof of U.S. Citizenship
 - Must not be dated (date of issue) more than 1 year after your actual birth date
 - Naturalization Certificate issued by Immigration Services
- Proof of ID
 - A copy (front and back) of the service member's military ID
 - A copy (front and back) of the applicants military ID
 - A copy (front and back) of the applicant's drivers license
 - If it is for a child 15 years or younger, a copy (front and back) of both parents military ID
 - Copy requirements
 - Photocopy must be on plain white, 8 1/2 x 11" standard paper stock, showing the front and the back of your ID
 - Photocopy must contain images on only one-side of each page

- If copies cannot be made on the same side of one page, you may present two separate pages; one displaying the front of the ID and the second displaying the back of the ID
 - The paper should be free of other images and/or markings
 - The 8 1/2 x 11" paper size cannot be substituted with a larger or smaller size paper, even if the alternative folds down to the 8 1/2 x 11" size
 - You may enlarge the image of your ID on the 8 1/2 x 11" page, but you may not decrease the size of the image
- Proof of name change (if applicable)
 - You will need this only if your name does not match what is on your Proof of Citizenship
 - Adoption Decree
 - Marriage Certificate
 - Court Document showing legal name change
 - NOTE: a Social Security Card is NOT acceptable

You will also be required to fill out and provide other forms and documents necessary for processing your application. They are as follows:

- A copy of your PCS orders.
 - Each person moving to Japan must appear on the orders
 - The names of each person must be spelled correctly and match what is on your passport. This will be a full first, full middle, and last name. If there are any discrepancies you may not be allowed entry into Japan
 - Web orders are acceptable
- DD Form 1056: Authorization To Apply For A "NO-FEE" Passport and/or Request for Visa
 - DO NOT SIGN THIS FORM UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.
- DS-11 Form
 - You will fill out this form if you fit the following criteria:
 - This will be your first passport application
 - You are under the age of 16
 - If you have a previous passport issued before you turned 16
 - If you had a passport but it was lost, stolen, or damaged
 - If you had a passport issued over 15 years ago
 - Your name has changed since your U.S. passport was issued and you are unable to legally document your name change
 - DO NOT SIGN THIS FORM UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO
- DS-82
 - You will fill out this form if you fit the following criteria:
 - Currently have a U.S. Passport and can provide it with your application (regardless if it's expired)
 - Your passport was issued less than 15 years ago
 - You were at least 16 years old when your passport was issued
 - Your passport is not damaged and not modified
 - DO NOT SIGN THIS FORM UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO

- DS-3053 Statement of Consent from the non-applying parent/guardian (if applicable)
 - If both parents cannot be present for any child age 15 or under this form will be needed to process the application
 - It must be signed and notarized by the non-applying parent
 - A copy of the photo ID (front and back) of the non-applying parent/guardian that was presented to the notary will be needed
 - A Power of Attorney cannot be used when applying for a U.S. Passport as consent from absent parent
- If a parent has sole custody you will need to provide the following to obtain a passport for your child
 - A court order granting sole legal custody to the applying parent (unless child's travel is restricted by that order)
 - A court order specifically permitting the applying parent to apply for the child's passport
 - A judicial declaration of incompetence of the non-applying parent
 - A death certificate of the non-applying parent
 - Photocopies and notarized copies are unacceptable

Photos Requirements

You will be required to take a photo for your passport. The State Dept. lists the following criteria for photos:

- Taken in full-face view directly facing the camera
- Taken with a neutral facial expression (preferred) or a natural smile, and with both eyes open
- Taken in clothing that you normally wear on a daily basis:
 - Uniforms, clothing that looks like a uniform, and camouflage attire should not be worn in photos except in the case of religious attire that is worn daily
 - You may only wear a hat or head covering if you wear it daily for religious purposes. Your full face must be visible and your head covering cannot obscure your hairline or cast shadows on your face
- Headphones, wireless hands-free devices or similar items are not acceptable in your photo
- If you normally wear prescription glasses, a hearing device or similar articles, they may be worn for your photo. Glare on glasses is not acceptable in your photo
- Dark glasses or non-prescription glasses with tinted lenses are not acceptable unless you need them for medical reasons (a medical certificate may be required)
- For examples, go to <http://www.travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports/photos/photo-examples.html>

Other important reminders

- Both parents and the child(ren) must be present when applying
- If you owe more than \$2500 in child support payments, your application will most likely be denied. If this applies to you, please correct these issues before applying
- While in Japan, your passport should be kept on you if you leave Iwakuni as it will serve as your primary ID outside of base
- As of January 2016 you can no longer add pages to an existing passport. If you need more pages you will need to renew your passport
- If you have a passport that has expired, you will need to turn it in in order to process a new one.
- No-fee passports are for official use, but Service members and their eligible family members stationed abroad and issued no-fee passports may use them for incidental personal travel during the period of their overseas assignment. (28 Definitions DoD 4500.54-M, February 3, 2009)
 - It is important to note that some countries **DO NOT** accept No-Fee passports. If you plan to travel outside of the country, it is recommended that you obtain a Regular-Fee passport. Not having the correct passport can leave you stranded. If you only plan to travel home to the States, you will not need a separate passport. You will need to carry both passports with you if you travel
- If a member of your family is NOT a US citizen, please contact your sponsor to inquire what steps you will need to take. You will also need to consult with Japanese Immigration and place of citizenship for more information
- If you are unable to obtain a passport within the 8 week time frame (for example, the birth of a new baby a few weeks before leaving) or your departure date unexpectedly changes, you will need an expedited letter signed by the Station Commander

Applying for your Regular-Fee Passport (for leisure travel)

To apply for a regular-fee United States Passport you must apply in person at a Passport Acceptance Facility (post office, clerk of Court, etc.). You will need most of the same documents used to gain your No-fee passport when applying. If you already have a passport and need to renew it you can do so through the mail or in person. If your passport expires before returning from Japan you can renew it at any time, however it will take longer to process in Japan so you may want to consider doing renewing it before you move. All children, regardless of age must have a passport. Please contact your passport agency for instructions on how to apply for a passport for your children.

DOCUMENTS

When moving, you will want to take certain documents with you on the plane. These should not be shipped with your regular belongings! Please take care that you are aware of where they are at all times while travelling as most of these will contain personal information.

You MUST carry physical copies of your area clearances and copies of the service member's orders. Make 3-5 copies before you leave the US as you will have to surrender a copy of the orders to board the Patriot Express in Seattle, and more will be needed during the check-in process on base.

Some other important documents you want to make sure travel with you are:

- Social Security Cards
- Adoption paperwork
- Any legal documentation like wills, power of attorneys, etc.
- Divorce/child custody paperwork
- Veterinary International Health certificate (for pets)
- Pet vaccination records and all requisite and relevant quarantine documentation
- Income tax records for the last several years
- School Records for Each Child - All transcripts from previous schools
- Financial/Personal Records
 - Medical/dental records, prescriptions, immunization cards*
 - Birth, naturalization, and marriage certificates
 - Driver's license, auto insurance, title, and registration
 - Personal checks, registers, bank statements
 - Credit cards, bills, and financial records
 - Contact information for doctors, dentists, and lawyers
- Household effects inventory
- Household goods insurance policy

Note

It is best to have physical copies of your medical records. The Clinic does not currently accept records on CDs. Please refer to the MCAS IWAKUNI MEDICAL & DENTAL section (pg29) for more details.

PET INFORMATION

Pets on Base

The United States Marine Corps has set official policy on types of dogs allowed in installation housing and other rules surrounding pets on base. If you plan to live in government housing, you must read [Marine Corps Order P11000.22 Ch 6](#) before you plan your move. Before bringing your pet to Iwakuni please review the policy on pets in family housing.

According to Marine Corps Order 11000.22, "full or mixed breeds of Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, and canid/wolf hybrids are prohibited aboard Marine Corps Installations." With that said, housing will not allow those breeds in on-base housing, but the Iwakuni Veterinary Treatment Facility will provide medical care to any breed of dog. Upon arrival in Japan, you may be required to stay in the Temporary Living Facility (TLF). The TLF has 8 pet-friendly rooms which can be booked by your sponsor prior to your arrival. If a pet-friendly room is unavailable, you may have your pet stay with a friend (who must abide by quarantine regulations), utilize The Pet Fostering Program (MCAS Iwakuni Policy Letter 5-16), or board your pet at the Barking Lot (The Barking Lot prioritizes animals on quarantine, but a reservation needs to be made as well as proof of vaccination to include Bordetella for dogs.). Pertaining to base housing: pets are authorized in townhouse units and on the first and second floor of the mid-rise apartments. Some quarters have limited yard space available for pets, however caution should be used in the event that such housing is unavailable. Japanese houses are very small and finding a house that will rent to you, with an acceptable yard, can be difficult if you have a dog, and extremely difficult if you own cats.

Visit the website below provided by the MCAS Iwakuni Veterinary Treatment Facility.

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

Quarantines

Japanese Animal Quarantine Service Regulations require that all animals imported into Japan undergo import quarantine, in accordance with the Rabies Prevention Law (and in the case of dogs and cats, also the Domestic Animal Infectious Disease Control Law) as well as an import exam to determine the animal is free of communicable disease. The quarantine period is 180 days. The 180 day quarantine period may be served in part or fully outside of Japan before import if the following criteria have been fulfilled. Failure to complete all requirements or provide original supporting documents will result in automatic 180 day quarantine starting from the date of import and the animal will be kept at an approved Animal Quarantine Station.

Import Requirements

1. Microchip implantation: The microchip must be ISO compliant and must be implanted BEFORE the rabies vaccination is administered. Proof of the date of microchip implantation is required.
2. Rabies vaccination: The owner must provide original rabies certificates signed by the administering veterinarian for at least TWO vaccinations prior to import and after microchip implantation. Vaccinations must be at least 30 days apart and within the accepted life span of the vaccine. Most recent vaccine must be given no more than 365 days from the date of arrival.
3. Serological testing for rabies antibody (FAVN test): The owner must provide the original proof of FAVN testing performed after vaccination against rabies.
4. The 180 day quarantine period begins the day the animal's blood was drawn for the FAVN test.
5. Advance notification of arrival to Japanese Animal Quarantine Service: Advanced notification allows the Japanese Animal Quarantine Service to prepare for the animal's arrival. Advance notification can be sent as soon as travel arrangements are made. Contacts for notification can be found at the following website <http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/index.html>
6. Health Certification: An original health certificate issued by a veterinarian is required. Health certificates issued by military veterinarians are valid for 10 days and do not require additional endorsement. **Health certificates issued by civilian veterinarians must be certified by the USDA and endorsed with a raised seal.**

If all requirements are met the quarantine release date will be set as 180 days after the FAVN blood draw. If all requirements are met and 180 days have lapsed the quarantine period will be 12 hours. Completing all import requirements can take up to 7 months so preparation and contacting local veterinarians are imperative. (resource <http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/>)

Following import into Japan all animals, regardless of quarantine release date or port of debarkation, must report to and register with the Iwakuni Veterinary Treatment Facility within 72 hours of arrival.

a. Home Quarantine:

SOFA status personnel will be allowed to quarantine their animals in on-base housing. Those pets that are assessed quarantine time can complete it in the owner's home on base.

b. Kennel Quarantine:

Those pets that do not meet the entry requirements or SOFA personnel that are required to live in off-base housing must quarantine their animal(s) at the owners' expense in a quarantine facility. Military quarantine facilities are available but limited in boarding space. Please secure kenneling reservations ahead of time. If space is not available, the quarantine period will need to be completed at a designated Japanese Animal Quarantine Station.

Depending on the results of import inspection, pets may be rejected to enter Japan. Below are 2 links that are critically important to get familiar with in order to ensure that all requirements are met for the quarantine process:

<http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/>

http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/pdf/guide_nonfree-en.pdf

Traveling with Your Pets

Owners are responsible for the shipment of pets arriving, departing and within Japan. Owners are responsible for all matters associated with travel arrangements and shipping requirements for their pets. Sometimes people pay a pet transportation service, such as "Sarah's Pet Paradise Transport Services Inc", to bring the pets over separate from their owners but may end up paying a few thousand dollars. If the owner is flying with the pet that can be done commercially or via Military flight, but the owner needs to coordinate with every airline to ensure pet space is available and appropriately paid for.

Kadena AB, Yokota AB, and MCAS Iwakuni currently have capabilities for handling AMC arrivals of dogs and cats and the advance notification is not needed. If the animal is traveling by commercial air, the Government of Japan requires an advance notification of pet movement as soon as transportation is scheduled. A notification approval will be returned and is used when checking in with the airline. Therefore, in order to avoid problems at check-in with the airline, this prior notification approval form is very important.

Pets that are assigned quarantine at their port of import in Japan are required to be quarantined on base, either at the boarding kennel or at the owner's on-base home. Under special circumstances, the pet can be "fostered" by someone who lives on base, but it is important that the foster family does not have pets of their own and that they fill out paperwork with us at the VTF (The Pet Fostering Program (MCAS Iwakuni Policy Letter 5-16)).

** Please note that Snub-nosed breeds have restrictions on when they can fly – not in the summer months, because they'll have problems breathing.

** Please note the new United PetSafe breed restrictions: snub-nosed, strong-jawed, crates over 30 inches are no longer able to fly on United.

Patriot Express

If you plan on using Patriot Express to bring your pets to Iwakuni please review this online brochure.

<http://www.amc.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-140807-032.pdf>

DoD regulations limit pet shipment to passengers in PCS status only. Pet space is limited on all AMC Patriot Express flights therefore, pet spaces are booked on a first come, first served basis. You are limited to two pets per family. Pets must be accompanied by their owner and shipment is at owners expense.

Since pet space is very limited, we highly recommend you contact your local transportation office as early as possible to book your pet space. Please remember, you, the owner are responsible for obtaining all required documentation, e.g., microchip, immunizations, border clearance, kennel labels requirements, DD Form 2208 Rabies Vaccination Certificate or civilian equivalent, DD Form 2209 Veterinary Health Certificate or civilian equivalent, bi-lingual certificates and proof of ownership.

Fees are charged on a per kennel basis. Your pet(s) and kennel with combined weight up to 70 pounds will be charged as one piece of excess baggage. Pet(s) and kennel with combined weight of 71-140 pounds will be charged as two pieces of excess baggage, pet(s) and kennel weighing 141-150 pounds will be charged as three pieces of excess baggage. Pet(s) and kennel weighing in excess of 150 pounds will not be accepted for shipment under any circumstances.

Refer to: DoD Personal Property Consignment Instruction Guide at:

<https://tops.ppcigweb.sddc.army.mil/ppcig/menu/query/country.do> under “Pet Immigration Requirements” and/or refer to the Pet Travel Brochure on the AMC Travel Site:

<http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel>

Commercial Airlines

Check these sites for more information on flying your pets commercially.

For Delta: http://www.delta.com/content/www/en_US/traveling-with-us/special-travel-needs/pets.html

For United: <https://www.united.com/web/en-US/content/travel/animals/petsafe.aspx>

For ANA: http://www.ana.co.jp/wws/us/e/asw_common/checkin/rakunori/pet/faq/

Noncombatant Evacuation Operation

NEO: It is always important to be prepared, and in the event of an emergency evacuation, pets are an important part of that process. Once your pet is registered with the VTF on base, it is important you have the proper paperwork needed if your pet is evacuated. These documents include the 2208 (Rabies certificate), 2209 (unsigned Health certificate- this piece of paper is only good for 10 days once signed), and a NEO card that states where the pet will be shipped to back in the states, its temperament, its diet, if it is on medications, etc. In the event of an evacuation your pet will need this documentation as well as an airline-approved kennel, 7 days of food, and if it is a cat, 7 days of litter.

<http://www.mcasiwakuni.marines.mil/Iwakuni-Home/NEO/FAQ/>

Helpful Points of Contact

1) "Barking Lot" = MCAS Iwakuni pet boarding facility (approved quarantine facility)

Phone = DSN: 253-3588 (From Cell: 0827-79-3588) (From USA: 011-81-827-79-3588)

Email = ombiwabarkinglot@usmc-mccs.org

Website = www.mccsiwakuni.com

2) Government of Japan Animal Quarantine Service

Phone = (From US) 011-81-467-32-6664

Email = na-k1@aq.s.maff.go.jp

*Note = the staff are friendly, speak English, and incredibly helpful

3) Iwakuni Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF)

Front Desk = DSN 253-6471 (From USA: 011-81-827-79-6471)

Facebook page =

<https://www.facebook.com/Iwakuni-Veterinary-Treatment-Facility-282002711999667>

4) Iwakuni Family Housing

Front Desk = DSN 253-5541 (From USA: 011-81-827-79-5541)

YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY

Moving your belongings to an overseas destination requires planning. With preparation and organization, you can make this complicated process a successful start to your overseas experience. The following information will help you understand the basics of moving your belongings and acquaint you with available resources. The personal property office or Distribution Management Office (DMO), as well as the military and family support center are available to give you detailed information to help you with your overseas move. Sponsors can help you decide what items to bring or what you might expect when you get to your new duty station.

Moving overseas is a great opportunity to pare down your belongings. Transporting your household goods overseas is expensive, so strict weight limits apply. Overseas housing is likely smaller than your current home and storage is limited.

Shipments

Three types of shipments. Unaccompanied Baggage (UB), Household Goods (HHGs), and Non-Temporary Storage (NTS)

- **Unaccompanied Baggage (UB).** This is the shipment which is typically shipped via air. 10% of your overseas weight allowance is allowed on this shipment. For example, if you are authorized a total 11,000lbs weight allowance, 8,250lbs are authorized to be shipped to Iwakuni. Of this 8,250lbs, up to 825lbs are authorized for UB shipment. UB shipments are part of your 75% overseas weight allowance. Useful items in UB include linens, towels, kitchenware, school supplies, seasonal clothing for 3-4 months, children's toys, gear required for work, microwave, and small televisions. This shipment is not guaranteed to arrive earlier than the HHG shipment, but it is the intent. Arrival depends on shipping schedules. Note: furniture is not authorized on this shipment. Some transportation providers may make an exception for cribs or children's bicycles.
- **Household Goods (HHGs).** This is the typically the largest shipment and includes everything not placed in NTS or shipped as UB. Follow local DMO policies for what can and cannot be shipped. This shipment travels by boat across the Pacific Ocean and can take six weeks to four months to arrive in Iwakuni. Work with your sponsor to gain an idea of what items may or may not be useful to bring with you. Furniture and most HHG items are available either on or off base in Iwakuni. Look at floor plans on MCAS Iwakuni's website to get an idea of what furniture will fit in base housing. Note that some families may end up living off base in the future and room dimensions may differ substantially. Wall space for hanging décor is often smaller than most stateside homes. Prepare your HHGs for shipment via boat. Ensure all moisture is wiped away to avoid mold and mildew during shipping.

- **Non-temporary Storage (NTS)** - Also called long-term storage, this category contains items that you do not need overseas and will unnecessarily use up your weight allowance. Items like large holiday decorations, oversized furniture, clothes you do not plan on wearing in Iwakuni, knickknacks, extra appliances, and oversized kitchenware can be stored in a warehouse facility while you are overseas. Prepare your NTS by ensuring all moisture is wiped away to prevent mold and mildew while in storage. Note: NTS is not climate controlled. If you wish to pay for climate controlled NTS, you must secure and deliver your NTS to a location of your choosing on your own. You will then file for reimbursement through your departing DMO only up to the amount allowable for non-climate controlled NTS. Talk to your DMO office regarding this process as it requires additional paperwork and approvals.

If you will not request delivery of your NTS until after your original tour length, coordinate with your departing DMO to request an extension of your NTS to avoid incurring additional charges.
- **Find your weight limit.** Weight limits vary depending on rank and dependents. Be sure to check your specific weight limit with your military and family support center or at this website: <https://www.move.mil/entitlements>

For shipments to Iwakuni, the Marine should check for the most recent order on weight % entitlements. Any remaining weight entitlement is authorized to be placed in Non-Temporary Storage at origin for the duration of the overseas assignment.

www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Docs/AP-AW-01.pdf
- **Separate your professional books and equipment.** Review the authorized pro-gear items on move.mil and confirm with your local DMO/Personal Property Office how much pro-gear the service member and spouse are each authorized. Authorized pro-gear does not count against your weight allowance. It needs to be separated from your other shipments and labeled as pro-gear prior to being packed as either UB or HHGs.
- **Estimate your weight.** Estimate your total weight using: <https://www.move.mil/resources/weight-estimator>

A rule of thumb is 1,500lbs per room. You do NOT need to bring a washer, dryer, or refrigerator. Some choose to bring outdoor items such as patio furniture and lawn mowers, but note that homes with outdoor spaces are not guaranteed. Items such as lawn mowers and weed eaters are available from Self Help aboard MCAS Iwakuni.
- **Keep within your weight limit.** If you exceed your weight limit, you will be liable for the cost. For an overseas move, this can be thousands of dollars. If you receive charges for excess weight, read them carefully to be sure that you have not been charged for shipping your professional items. Should this occur once you are in Iwakuni, contact DMO at 253-3358 or 3898 if you have questions.

- **Requesting Personal Property Shipments.** After receiving the Area Clearance message, set up your personal property shipments on move.mil. You will need accounting information from your orders to complete this. You will request three shipments depending on your weight allowances and needs. This will result in three sets of personal property paperwork to review during your DMO counseling appointment. You are not required to use Non-temporary Storage, but it is available.

Tips for personal property preparation. Take an inventory and photos of your possessions. This will help you with claims processes should you need them. If possible, physically separate your shipments prior to the movers arriving at your home. Take an inventory of high value items with photos and documentation as required. Pack the luggage you plan to travel with to ensure your shipments are divided appropriately and you do not have too much for your luggage.

Delivery of personal property in Iwakuni. Personnel often arrive in Iwakuni prior to their personal property. Contact the Iwakuni Personal Property Processing Office (PPPO) at 253-3358 or 253-3898 upon your arrival to update your contact information for when your personal property arrives in Iwakuni. If you are staying at the Temporary Lodging Facility (TLF), personal property cannot be delivered to the TLF. Once you have secured a residence, provide the PPPO with your move-in date and address. You can also call one of the inbound clerks at 253-4439/3898 to schedule your delivery. Review the MCAS Iwakuni DMO website for further information regarding the claims process. <https://www.mcasiwakuni.marines.mil/Welcome-Aboard/DMO/>

Other

Voltage differences. Base power is based on American standards and outlets are sized for American appliances.

Japan's electric system uses 110V and is either 50 to 60Hz. You do not need a converter or transformer in Japan, but your appliances won't have the power they had stateside. Most outlets do not have a ground hole, so 3-prong plugs will need to be converted to 2-prong. There are converters at the local hardware stores.

Guns. It is up to you to research the regulations at your destination. Gun owners must follow the laws of the host country. It is extremely difficult to bring guns to Iwakuni, and the process is fraught with paperwork. Be aware that it is highly unlikely that you will be able to keep your firearm in your home. Contact your local DMO to find out your entitlements about moving weapons to Japan, but it is strongly encouraged to store your weapons in the stateside.

Personal Vehicles

Please note that shipping your vehicle is exceedingly cost prohibitive and paperwork heavy. It is recommended that you do not ship your personal vehicle to Japan.

- Shipping your Vehicle: <https://move.mil/sites/default/files/inline-files/OCONUS%20Country%20Instructions.pdf> pg 640
- **Vehicle storage.** Policy for vehicles storage: http://www.ustranscom.mil/dtr/part-iv/dtr_part_iv_app_k_4.pdf Obtain an Endorsement of Change of Station Orders Authorizing POV Storage from DMO. You are authorized to store ONE vehicle at government expense at a Vehicle Processing Center (VPC). Once you obtain the authorization, you will make the official storage request on <http://www.pcsmypov.com> Restrictions apply on size, such as RVs. Work with your DMO to coordinate which VPC around the country you want to request storage. When making the appointment to store your POV, consider your timeline to drop off the vehicle. The vehicle drop off process is detailed and ideally takes 2-3 hours, but depending on the inspection, could require minor repairs prior to vehicle acceptance. Consider allowing 2-3 days in your schedule for working with the VPC. All recalls will be required to be corrected with proof of completion prior to VPC acceptance. Use your VIN and information provided on www.pcs.mypov.com to determine if your vehicle is subject to active recalls. Note: the car will be completely stripped for storage including antennas, license plates, floor mats, etc. Do not use your POV for personal property storage. Remember to collect contact information for your VPC so that you can contact them if your tour length is modified to avoid incurring additional charges.
- **Insurance** – You may want to consider investing in additional insurance for your belongings in non-temporary storage and renters insurance to protect your household goods in Japan. If there is loss or damage to your property during the move, you are subject to the same claims process that applies for CONUS moves. You will work with the MCAS Iwakuni Personal Property Office to complete these claims. You may be able to purchase additional insurance from private insurance companies. Some homeowner policies may cover items while they are being shipped. Check with your insurance company prior to leaving the United States for renter’s policies that will cover your belongings overseas. You may need to establish a policy stateside prior to your departure.

Helpful Websites

- <https://www.move.mil/entitlements>
- http://www.militaryonesource.mil/moving?content_id=268984
- <https://move.mil/sites/default/files/inline-files/OCONUS%20Country%20Instructions.pdf> Page 626-647
- http://www.ustranscom.mil/dtr/part-iv/dtr_part_iv_app_k_1.pdf
- <http://www.worldtravelingmilitaryfamily.com/pcs-unaccompanied-baggage-express-shipment/>
- www.mcasiwakuni.marines.mil/Welcome-Aboard/DMO/
- <http://www.pcsmypov.com>

TRAVELING TO JAPAN

Once your Marine receives their orders from IPAC, they will receive contact information from IPAC to set up travel. IPAC will generate a port call package and the Marine will need to provide all of the information regarding family, pets, etc. This portion of the move will not need to be done with the Government Credit Card.

There are two ways to get to Iwakuni. You will travel either by Air Mobility Command (Patriot Express) or Commercial Airlines. When IPAC books the ticket, if there is not availability on AMC, they will book the flights commercially.

OPTION 1 (Patriot Express – Preferred Route)

Air Mobility Command (AMC) “Patriot Express” flight lands directly aboard the installation. Patriot Express flights are currently flying out of SEATAC in Seattle once a week, on Thursdays. You will need to arrive at SEATAC on Wednesday evening as the ticketing process begins at 1 or 2am on Thursday. There is an extensive USO space near the ticketing area prepared to accommodate all the AMC travelers.

Luggage: Each passenger is authorized two pieces of baggage not to exceed 70 pounds each and 62 linear inches (sum of length + height + width). Single bags larger than 62 linear inches and/or heavier than 70 pounds will be counted as two pieces. **BAGGAGE EXCEEDING 80 LINEAR INCHES/100 POUNDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED ON PATRIOT EXPRESS.** Excess baggage is not authorized. Disposition of oversized/excess baggage is the responsibility of the owner/traveler.

passthechopsticks.blogspot.com/2015/01/flying-patriot-express-from-seattle.html
<http://www.mcasiwakuni.marines.mil/WelcomeAboard/AMCPatriotExpressTravel.aspx>

If you are not using the Patriot Express, then you will possibly be arriving through one of the following commercial routes:

OPTION 2 (Tokyo-Narita International Airport to Hiroshima Airport)

You can fly directly from the U.S. to Narita International Airport and transfer to the one daily late afternoon domestic flight to Hiroshima Airport. Flight times vary seasonally but it generally leaves around 5:45 PM and takes about 1.5 hours to reach Hiroshima. Since this flight arrives late in the afternoon, it is very likely that the currency exchange and information counters will be closed when you arrive. Therefore, it is imperative that you bring enough Japanese Yen for the remainder of your journey to Iwakuni. Note: You must go through customs at Narita and recheck luggage for the flight to Hiroshima.

OPTION 3 (Tokyo-Narita INTL Airport to Tokyo Haneda Domestic Airport to Hiroshima Airport)

You can fly into Tokyo Narita and transfer by bus to Tokyo Haneda Domestic Airport, which has numerous daily flights to Hiroshima. The bus ride can take up to 2 hours depending on Tokyo traffic, and you must first clear customs at Tokyo Narita and collect all bags to take with you. Bus tickets, which cost about Y3000 per person, for the trip can be bought at the airport bus desk near the terminal exit point. Most staff members speak English and can direct you on how to get to the correct waiting area for the next available bus. Note: If you have pets, you will most likely give them up at Narita Airport baggage pickup for quarantine and travel later to Iwakuni.

****If your travel plans terminate in Hiroshima, please contact your sponsor right away to coordinate transportation to MCAS Iwakuni. It is possible to take public transportation from the airport to Hiroshima city proper and then into Iwakuni city, but this is not advisable for families with children and pets upon initial arrival****

OPTION 4 (Tokyo-Narita INTL Airport to Tokyo Haneda Domestic Airport to Iwakuni Kintaikyo Airport)

A civilian airport terminal has been built just outside the base to accommodate commercial flight airline carrier, All Nippon Airways (ANA), operates 5 flights a day from Haneda, Tokyo Airport.

****Please note that there may be additional options of travel after time of print.**

BASE HOUSING

Unaccompanied Housing

IMPORTANT NOTE : UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING

Unaccompanied Housing quarters are equipped with basic furnishings. Members are encouraged to store personal furnishing CONUS and bring only minimal HHG to MCAS Iwakuni. Facilities BHD is unable to accommodate the storage of excess furnishings at this time. Residents must rent commercial storage space for extensive storage needs. On-site storage is limited and intended only for minimal items such as luggage.

TYPES OF BARRACKS

Current Bachelor Housing accommodations for Permanent Party personnel include:

- Officers O1 and above and Chief Warrant Officers W1 and above: Private room with living room, bedroom, kitchen, and private bath.
- SNCO E6-E9: Private room with kitchen and private bath.
- E5: Shared unit without a living room: private bedroom with 180 NSF per person, a shared service area and shared bath with no more than one other person.
- E4 and below: Shared unit without a living room: shared bedroom with 90 NSF per person, a shared service area and shared bath with no more than three other people.

HOW TO APPLY FOR HOUSING

To request Unaccompanied Housing quarters, please provide a copy of your orders, your DODID number, and your estimated arrival/departure dates. There are several ways you may submit this information:

- Ask your sponsor to bring it into the housing office in building 1503;
- E-mail it to IwakuniUH@usmc.mil prior to your arrival; or
- Bring it to the housing office once you arrive. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Source: <https://www.mcasiwakuni.marines.mil/Welcome-Aboard/Housing-and-Lodging/Bachelor-Housing/>

Accompanied Housing

Military personnel assigned to MCAS Iwakuni and having bona fide dependents that reside with the military member on a permanent basis are eligible to apply for on-base housing. All family housing under the jurisdiction or assignment control of the Marine Corps is assigned to eligible personnel without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. In addition, residing in government owned housing is a privilege not an entitlement.

If you or your family members have special needs (ex: wheelchair, walker/cane, other disabilities etc) please contact us as soon as you have orders or expect to report to Iwakuni. This is an Overseas Command and all needs may not be able to be accommodated.

Government Housing Eligibility:

- All military pay grades E-4 and above on orders with accompanying family members and area clearance and U.S. Civilians GS-11 and above with on a Transportation Agreement and receive a Living Quarters Allowance (LQA) are eligible to reside in base housing.
- Accompanying bona fide family members are those family members who are bona fide dependent status and are included on your command sponsorship approval/area clearance, and will reside with the service member for nine consecutive months or more each year. Joint custody of children does not make someone eligible for family housing. In those cases, off base housing is the only option.
- Advance applications will be accepted but will not advance in to the freeze zone until member physically arrives on station.
- Members must check-in with the Family Housing Office within 2 working days of arrival with a copy of endorsed original orders and area clearance. If member is traveling non-concurrent member must show an itinerary indicating that family members will arrive within 45 days before a housing offer can be made. If member checks-in after 30 days, the control date will be the date when member checks into the Housing Office and provides a copy of order, area clearance and housing application the last day that all documents have been received will be the established control date.

Waiting list:

- Applicants will be placed on the waiting list when housing receives the DD-1746, copy of orders and area clearance, once all these documents are received will establish the control date.
- Housing will offer the first available unit or the unit in the member designated category that has been vacant the longest regardless of having pet.

- Per the station CO, having a pet (Dog) is not a reason to turn down housing.
- Per the MCIPAC TLA order refusal of government housing will lead to termination of Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA) affective the day member could have moved in to quarters.
- Due to the on-going renovation project of Family Housing, this has caused some availability issues upon arrival and in some cases has increased the waiting times.
- Please stay in touch with housing who will continue to keep you updated on the current waiting times which can change without prior notice.
- Contact Family Housing by e-mail: iwknfamilyhousing@usmc.mil .

To apply for housing, fill in and submit Form DD1746. All applicants are placed on a waiting list by their established application control date. Members bringing pets will also need to submit the Pet Registration Form. There are several ways to submit the form to Family Housing:

1. **Have your sponsor request it for you.** Ask your sponsor to fill in the form DD1746 or give them the filled form, and ask them to submit it to the housing office.
2. **Request it on your own before arriving at MCAS Iwakuni.** Visit your local base housing office to get the form DD1746, or use the form on this site. Fill in the form and sent it to the housing office:

By mail:

MCAS Iwakuni
 Facilities Department
 Military Housing Division
 Family Housing Office
 PSC 561 BOX 1871
 FPO AP 96310-0019

By fax:

DSN: 253-6521
 Commercial number from Japan:
 0827-79-6251
 Commercial number from U.S.: 011-
 81-827-79-6521

By e-mail:

iwknfamilyhousing@usmc.mil

3. **Request it after arriving at MCAS Iwakuni.** Visit the Family Housing Office, Building 200, and complete the application. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Closed from noon to 1 p.m.)

Furniture and household:

- It is recommended that you DO NOT bring heavy and/or oversized furniture (King size beds etc). If you are required to reside off base, Japanese home and rooms may not be large enough to accommodate the larger American Furniture. Quarters on base depending on what is available and offered may be smaller than stateside homes.
- Housing provides a stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer and dishwasher for on base quarters. For off base normally has been issued a Refrigerator, Japanese style Washer/Dryer, electric countertop oven.
- For command sponsored accompanied with dependents, those personnel who reside off-base may be provided an electric countertop oven, refrigerator and Japanese style washer and dryer (if available). An American washer or dryer and refrigerator normally are too large to fit into a Japanese house.
- Due to the high humidity in Iwakuni it is recommended you bring or purchase your own dehumidifier.
- If your household goods have not arrived when you move into either on or off-base quarters, temporary furniture is available for up to 60 days. The Lending Locker loans household goods including a Kitchen Kit that includes all the basics you need. Items include flatware, plates, cutting board, coffee maker, toaster goods and more. Linen is not provided (For command sponsored accompanied personnel only). You may want to put all items that would be immediately needed in your express shipment.
- Family Housing cannot support any unaccompanied personnel with any kind of loaner and or permanently issued equipment. The only service Family Housing is authorized to provide to unaccompanied personnel is off base housing referral.

Pets:

- Even though members are authorized to bring their pets to MCAS Iwakuni, it is strongly recommended that families DO NOT bring a pet. Please see the “Pet Information” page for further information.
- It is difficult to find off-base housing that will accept pets.

Marine Corps Order prohibits full or mixed dog breeds aboard Marine Corps installations; Pit Bulls, Rottweiler, canid/wolf hybrid. For more information about this policy, contact your local housing office.

Perks:

- Each mid-rise has a community room that is available and can be checked out for private personal use by any service member or accompanying dependents.
- Family Housing also provides playgrounds and picnic pavilions that are available to all families on first-come-first serve basis.

Off-base housing:

Off-base Rentals available online at <http://www.homes.mil>; type Iwakuni Japan for location. All available homes on Homes.mil have been inspected and approved by the family housing office. The off-base process cannot begin until the service member arrives in Iwakuni. Homes rented on a first-come-first serve basis and cannot be held for service members who have not arrived in Iwakuni.

- Be prepared with \$3,000-\$5,000 to cover the move in expenses. That may include agent's fees, deposits, and automobile parking fees on top of the rental charge.
- When moving into off-base housing, if you are eligible for housing allowances, active duty members will receive Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA), Move-in Housing Allowance (MIHA) and Utility allowance. However, this might not appear on your LES prior to obtaining a residence.
- You will be assisted in bi-lingual contracts, setting up local bank accounts and establishing of telephone and utility service. Most service members who live off-base use G.I. Bill Pay, which is a service that automatically deducts the rent and various utilities charges from your accounts twice per month for Y500, or roughly \$5 a month. Your realtor will be able to help you get that set up.
- Locating and finding a home off base is the members' responsibility. Housing will assist by introducing members to local agents, explain the house hunting requirements, complete the leasing process.
- The housing office will still be the primary point of contact for any issues or concerns that arise during the time stationed here.

Base Housing photos and more information:

<http://www.mcasiwakuni.marines.mil/WelcomeAboard/HousingandLodging/FamilyHousing.aspx>

<http://www.mcasiwakuni.marines.mil/WelcomeAboard/HousingandLodging/FamilyHousing/MustKnow.aspx>

MCAS IWAKUNI MEDICAL & DENTAL

Branch Health Clinic <http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhyoko/Pages/Iwakuni.aspx>

Mailing Address:
PSC 561 Box 1877
FPO AP 96310

MEDICAL CONTACT NUMBERS – from Japanese cell phone 0827-94-XXXX)

Appointment Line – 255-8000	Laboratory – 255-8111
Marine Center Medical Home 255-8350	Immunizations – 255-8040
CVW-5 Medical – 255-8353	Optometry – 255-8485
Tricare – 255-8307	Physical Therapy – 255-8151
Pharmacy – 255-8280	Audiology – 255-8319
Radiology – 255-8445	Mental Health – 255-8331
Acute Care Center (urgent/emergent issues) – 255-8100/8101/8102	

CLINIC HOURS

Mon, Tues, Thurs-Fri – 0800-1600; Wednesday – 0800-1300

Medical Records

While it is best to bring physical copies of vaccinations and other records, the clinic does have access to the digital DOD medical database. Please note, the clinic does not currently accept records on CDs.

Patient Services

- Primary Care Manager (PCM) for all dependents
 - Board Certified Family Medicine Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Physicians Assistants, and Pediatricians
- Available for walk-in acute cases, 24-hours, 7 days a week
 - It is requested you call Acute Care Center prior to coming in, but if you have a serious emergency and aren't able to call or have a problem with the phone number, please go to the Acute Care for services.
- Audiology provides hearing tests and evaluations, hearing aids, and many other services
- Flight physicals
- Limited specialty services for children from birth to age 21. Developmental screenings available upon request.
- Eye exams, corrective lens and other optometric services; optometry is staffed by a full-time optometrist
- Provides an extensive range of physical therapy treatment. Appointment by Referral Only; contact your PCM.

In house services include: physical therapy, optometry, audiology, occupational health, preventative medicine, laboratory, and X-ray.

A birthing center is in process.

If a specialist is needed, such as podiatry, orthopedics, ENT, ophthalmology, and dermatology, Naval Hospital Yokosuka sends specialists down quarterly to see patients by referral only. If they cannot provide services a patient needs, the patient is sent to NH Yokosuka or to a host nation specialist (translators provided).

Dental

Website:

<https://www.med.navy.mil/sites/3denoki/Subordinate%20Units/Pages/BranchDentalClinicIwakuni.aspx>

Dental Care Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 0700 - 1600
Wednesday, Friday: 0700 - 1100
Closed Weekends and US Federal Holidays

Emergency Sick-call Hours:

Walk-ins Monday - Friday: 0700 - 1030

Contact Information

Office Phone Number: 255-8500
Emergency After Hours Duty Phone:
Primary: 080-6612-9266
Secondary: 090-6861-4609

Services Offered

- Dental Hygiene
- Operative Dentistry
- Endodontics
- Oral Surgery
- Pediatric Dentistry
- Prosthodontics
- Orthodontics
- Periodontics

EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE

MCCS Childcare

- Child Development Center (CDC) – 6 weeks – 5 years old (not enrolled in K)
 - Preschool 3 years old (Tues & Thurs 0830-1130)
 - 4-5 years old (M,W, & F 0830-1130)
 - Please check the website below for any and all updated information. Due to the new construction and frequent turnover of employees due to PCSing in and out, checking the website below will give you the most up-to-date phone numbers and information:
 - <https://mccsiwakuni.com/abcs-of-the-cdc>
- School Age Care Center (SAC) – 5(enrolled in K)- 12yrs, anticipating additional preschool option
 - Provides before/after school care and programs during teacher days, half days, and winter/spring/summer breaks.
 - SAC is located at Iwakuni Elementary School
- Youth and Teen Center (Y&T) – 10-18yrs
 - Offers several programs free of charge
 - Youth and Teen Center is located at the OLD High School as of April 2018. Location may change once you arrive.

For more information about the CDC, SAC, and Y&T, please visit militarychildcare.com

For more base resource information and registration paperwork, visit their website:
<https://mccsiwakuni.com/home/marine-family/family-resources/child-care-youth-programs/>

Welcome Aboard Childcare

Childcare for the welcome aboard is on a first come first serve basis with drop off between 6:30 am to 7:00 am. Children will not be accepted prior is 6:30 am. The number of childcare openings for the welcome aboard is inconsistent. If there is no spot available, you can bring your children to the Welcome Aboard. Upon the completion of the Welcome Aboard session, you will be given a childcare voucher.

Signing Up for Childcare for Welcome Aboard

1. Complete the following packet: <https://mccsiwakuni.com/wp-content/uploads/pdf/cytp-special-event-registration-packet.pdf>
2. Bring a copy of your shot records. (Your child WILL be turned away if you do not have shot records during drop off)

Provisions:

The CDC will provide your child with breakfast (800), lunch (1100), snack (1400) and dinner (1730). No outside drinks or snacks are permitted. Bring diapers, wipes, and an extra change of clothes. You can bring your own cups or bottles, but you will need to have them labeled.

Questions/Concerns call 253-5584

Other Childcare Options

- Yochien's (Japanese Preschools are all off base and ages are 2-5) are very popular options for many Iwakuni families. Detailed information is shared in the Welcome Aboard brief packets.
- FCC (single homes – 6 kids) If you are a FCC provider or want to become one, contact the CDC

Education – Under 18

**In this section, "sponsor" refers to the service member stationed at MCAS Iwakuni*

The School Liaison acts as a communication link between the installation and school personnel including principals and teachers.

School Liaison Officer Contact Info

PSC 561 Box 1863
FPO AP 96310-001

DSN: 253-3691
FAX: 253-6490

When you arrive to the school to complete the registration process, PLEASE NOTE that your child will not start the day you register. Students can start 24hours after you're registered.

School Level PCS Checklist

Make sure you bring the following with you when you PCS:

- Child's passport to confirm date of birth *
(child must be 5 on or before Sept. 1 for kinder)* (child must be 6 on or before Sept. 1 for 1st grade)
- Service member's orders indicating that this is an accompanied tour; orders should contain the student's name. An Area Clearance is also required.
- Immunization record
- A COMPLETED student registration packet from your respective school (forms may vary depending on the grade and school you're registering for)
- Copy/official transcript
- Copy of IEP if applicable
- Copy of withdrawal grade with grading system from previous school
- Copy of standardized test score if applicable
- Copy of current school schedule (HS students)

- Online Registration: <https://registration.dodea.edu/privacy-act.cfm>. The online registration link provides a false sense that by filling out the two pages that it provides, it completes the registration process. Incoming families can use the website, but must understand that they should upload the following documents into the online website to expedite the process:
 - child's birth certificate
 - child's passport
 - child's immunization records
 - child's last report card and/or transcripts
 - orders or letter of employment, and area clearance, if applicable.

School Supplies

For all Schools: The MCX has school supplies while supplies last. Many parents rely on their Amazon Prime for cheaper and better selections.

MC Perry Elementary School - Sure Start-2nd grade

DSN: 253-3327/4673

- SURE START
 - Early intervention program for families in our school community with priority given to children whose sponsor's rank is E1-E4. Any sponsor whose rank is E5-E9, who wishes to apply for the program, is eligible to do so- with the understanding that priority is given to students whose sponsor is in the first eligibility category.
 - Child must be 4 years old by 1 September of the school year in which you hope to enroll your child.
 - Parents must agree to participate in the classroom and volunteer their time as a precondition to their child's enrollment.
- Kindergarten start DOB prior to 1 September. The only exception is if the child has already completed or is currently enrolled at an ACCREDITED kindergarten.
- After school Clubs are available for grades Sure Start through 2nd grade
 - Fall and Spring Clubs
 - Limited spots based on staff availability
- DSN: 315-253-3327
- <https://www.dodea.edu/MCPerryES/>

Iwakuni Elementary School - Grades 3-5

DSN 253-3164/3168

- After school Clubs are available for grades Sure Start through 5th grade
 - Fall and Spring Clubs
 - Limited spots based on staff availability
- <http://www.dodea.edu/IwakuniES/>

Iwakuni Middle School - Grades 6-8

DSN 253-6382/6378

- A/B schedule 4 classes on one day and 3 on another day
- No sports within the school. You will need to sign up with MCCS Youth Sports at the Main Gym
- Bring PE Clothes. There is no set uniform but gym clothes and shoes will be required. They receive a PE locker in order to store these clothes and shoes.
- All lockers are digital, no personal combination locks are needed.
- Testing: Summative Assessment/PARC
- Standards used: College and Career Ready Standards
- After school Clubs are available
 - Fall and Spring Clubs
 - Limited spots based on staff availability
- Teen Center is 10-18 years. Free. Currently located at the old elementary school but will be moving to the new school in the near future.
 - During the Summer and throughout the school year
 - Ask the front desk at the middle school for more information when you arrive

M.C. Perry High School - Grades 9-12

DSN: 253-5448/5449

- School sports available
 - Please note: they DO travel to all DoDea Pacific High Schools to compete as early as 9th grade.
- The school web page has all of the forms required for registration.
- <https://www.dodea.edu/MCPerryHS/>

IEP Plan and 504 Information

The information below will help you prepare with any necessary paperwork you will need to have when you enroll your child into the elementary school if they currently have an IEP or are on a 504 Plan. Please “check” the boxes as you complete each task so that you have what they need when you arrive.

- All IEP's, and 504's are verified and reviewed upon enrollment by our Special Education Department, and communicated to the gaining teacher immediately. Please make sure sponsors/parents bring a copy in hand.
- Please call or email your respective school and they will send you a copy of the updated forms you need to fill out.
- Please have parents bring hard copies of the following:
 - ALL transcripts from previous school, including IEP's, 504's or any other special needs paper work.
 - A Copy of shot records, passport
 - Sponsors orders to MCAS Iwakuni with dependents names listed on them, or the area clearance with dependent names listed.
- Your IEP's and 504's need to be in sealed envelopes and hand carried.
- If you have any questions specific to your individual needs, please relay them to your respective school's Registrar Office that can answer or guide you to the specific person you will need to speak with.

Home Schooling at MCAS Iwakuni

No registration with DODEA required. DOD schools are supportive of home schoolers, and if registered with the school, kids can take classes on campus and participate in Tera Nova testing. Partial enrollment is available for students interested in homeschooling and extracurricular activities at schools or classroom instruction for select classes. Contact current School Liaison for information.

- There may be a Facebook group for homeschooling families.
- MCAS Iwakuni home schooling families can utilize the HSAMF (Home School Association for Military Families) for resources, support and a larger home school community.
- HSAMF website: <http://www.hsamf.org/>

Adult Education Opportunities

MCCS Personal and Professional Development Center (P&PD) offers a great number of resources to support education, career, family team building, and personal financial management. They are the only resource on base certified to help with the following adult education services. Please visit their website for more information at <https://mccsiwakuni.com/home/marine-family/ppr/>

Education Services offers:

- Academic institution, credentialing, and training opportunity identification
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) assistance
- My Career Advancement Account (MyCAA) information
- Tuition Assistance information & processing
- Leadership Scholar Program assistance
- Test & college preparation information
- U.S. Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP)
- Joint Services Transcripts (JST)
- Scholarships resources
- Unit education briefs
- Military Classification Testing and College Testing Proctoring
- Study Resources for CLEP, DSST, and other voluntary education examinations

Website: <https://mccsiwakuni.com/home/marine-family/ppr/education-services/>

University of Maryland and Central Texas College are the resident colleges. Adult Ed provides Veteran services and runs the library. The base library has over 51,000 publications and provides various classes for adults and children each month (examples: family game night, story time, Japanese culture class).

Language Classes

JAS

Various classes are available through the **Japanese American Society (JAS)** on base and at the community center in Iwakuni. Classes through the JAS are \$5 per class. JAS provides opportunities for Japanese and Americans to build friendships and enjoy cultural exchange; it is not a language program – check out their other activities and language class schedule at their website or on Facebook.

JAS Website (available in English and Japanese): <http://jiwakuni.jimdo.com/>

Kumon Language Program

There is a Kumon language center in Iwakuni and the cost is approximately \$140/month for language lessons. The lessons can also be done via correspondence through a combination of self learning resources and Skype lessons.

Kumon Website: <http://www.kumon.ne.jp/jpn/english/>

Further Opportunities to learn the Japanese Language:

- **The Station Library:** Online Transparent Language & Rosetta Stone
<http://mccsiwakuni.com/marine-family/library/>
- **Cultural Adaptation:** Provides a 4 day Survival Japanese Class
<http://mccsiwakuni.com/marine-family/cultural-relocation-resources/cultural-adaptation/>
- **Iwakuni City Office:** Off-base Japanese classes
http://www.mylanguageexchange.com/city/Iwakuni__Japan.asp
- **UMUC:** On-base Japanese college class
<https://www.asia.umuc.edu/locations/japan/iwakuni-mcas-aj761r>

EMPLOYMENT

**In this section, "sponsor" refers to the service member stationed at MCAS Iwakuni*

If you are looking for employment on MCAS Iwakuni, it is recommended to start looking through available jobs and submitting applications anywhere from 1-6 months from arrival. There are often hiring delays due to processing background checks, or budget freezes.

Federal Positions (GS, DoDEA, NAF)

Available GS, DoDEA, and NAF positions listed on USAJobs. Create a profile to apply. Some postings, such as MCCA NAF positions link to the MCCA careers site.

<https://www.usajobs.gov/>

Marine Corps Community Services (MCCA) Iwakuni

Inquire at: iwakuninafhr@usmc-mcca.org

Apply: www.usmc-mcca.org/careers

- Filter this down to Iwakuni by selecting Iwakuni on the left side

Follow: [facebook.com/mccsiwakuniemployment](https://www.facebook.com/mccsiwakuniemployment)

Human Resources: 253-3030

- Full-time and part-time positions offer competitive benefits and all positions provide career development opportunities.
- Flex positions work around your schedule needs
- Minimum age: 14 yrs with parental consent in flex position
- Active duty authorized with OIC consent to work in flex positions

Civilian Human Resource Office (CHRO)

<http://www.mcasiwakuni.marines.mil/Organizations/Station/CHRO/>

CHRO 253-6828, 253-6873/3455

IWKN_SMBIwakuniHRO@usmc.mil

CHRO is the human resource department for GS positions on base. The CHRO Employment Branch has primary responsibility for recruitment, placement, merit promotion (competitive actions, non-competitive actions, areas of consideration, certification), employment policy, staff planning, qualification standards, medical qualification standards, testing, Outstanding Scholar appointments, buyouts, furloughs, variation requests, Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program, Reduction-in-Force and Veterans programs.

Hiring Preferences

Category 1: Military Spouse Preference (MSP) (Orders required)

- Special preference applies to active duty spouses for positions graded NF-3 and below
- MSP requires a copy of the active duty member's orders with the spouse's name listed.
- MSP applicants hired in a flexible position will not lose their spousal preference eligibility until transferred or hired into a regular Full-Time or Part-Time position.
- MSP begins 30 days prior to the active duty sponsor's reporting date to the new duty station.
- Spouse must be married to the sponsor prior to relocation to the new duty station.
- No limit to the number of times spousal preference may be applied to referral and selection for non-continuing positions.
- Eligibility terminates due to acceptance or declination of an offer of a continuing Full-Time or Part-Time position.

Category 2: TA/TAMP Preference

- Hiring preference for members of the Armed forces, and their dependents who were involuntarily separated, separated under the Special Separation Benefit (SSB), or who separated under the Voluntary Separation Incentive
- Transitional Assistance preference applies to positions graded as NF-3 and below and equivalent hourly paid positions.

Category 3: Family Member of Active Duty military or DOD Civilians stationed overseas (Orders Required)

- Preference for family members of active duty military members and civilian employees stationed in foreign areas when not at variance
- No limit to the number of times this preference may be used

Category 4: Not Applicable/All Other Priority Preferences

- The veterans' hiring preference laws are not applicable to Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF) employment. Veterans applying for NAF jobs may be given priority consideration at time of hire only.
- To receive priority consideration, veterans must submit a copy of their DD 214 at the time of application.

Contractors:

For spouses and family members who do not meet citizenship requirements to work for the federal government, the following contract companies also employ eligible spouses and family members. These positions are often located on base, occasionally working alongside GS and NAF employees.

Yupa Corporation

1-7-22 Marifu-Machi

Iwakuni-Shi 740-0018

Ph: 0827-21-5725/090-9738-2699

Job Plenty

Heights City Seihoku, Bldg. 101

2-39-3 Aragusuku, Okinawa Japan

Ph: 0827-28-4681 / 090-5296-4514

IOD

465-10 Ihei, Chatancho

Nakagami-gun, Okinawa 904-0102

Ph: 080-6491-8137

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Welcome Aboard brief offers detailed information about all the places to volunteer on base. Here is a list of potential options. If you are interested in more information, please visit <https://mccsiwakuni.com/?s=volunteer>

There are also many volunteer opportunities within the squadron. If you are interested in being a part of the volunteer team or the Family Readiness planning team, please work with your service member to contact the Unit or Deployment Readiness Coordinators (URC/DRCs) (previously known as Family Readiness Officers or FROs)

- American Red Cross
- Booster Club
- Boy Scouts
- Boys and Girls Club
- Branch Health Clinic
- Girl Scouts
- Japanese American Society
- Library
- LINKS Mentor
- MCCS Community Counseling Program
- MCCS Family Team Building
- MCCS Semper Fit (gym)
- MCCS Single Marine Program (SMP)
- MCCS Substance Abuse and Prevention Program
- Navy Marine Corp Relief Society
- Parent Teacher Organizations
- School Programs
- Station Chapel
- Thrift Store
- Veterinarian
- Youth Sports (through the schools)

IWAKUNI BASICS

Konnichiwa!

Welcome to MCAS Iwakuni! The air station has deep cultural and historical roots, dating back to the 1940's when it was operated by only 3,000 personnel, to its present-day staff of over 15,000. The American population, and the 140,000+ locals, comprise Iwakuni's unique cultural diversity. Whatever Japanese experience you are looking for, Iwakuni will show it to you. Iwakuni, which translates to "rock country," is a sprawling city that encompasses 337 square miles of beaches, small bays, countryside and clusters of small mountains.

TIME: 13/14 hours ahead of Eastern Daylight/Standard Time

CLIMATE

The climate of our region is temperate humid (or humid sub-tropical), with quite mild winters, and muggy and rainy summers.

In winter there are fairly mild periods, with highs above 50 °F, and lows rarely dropping below freezing. Snowfalls are generally light, as are nocturnal frosts.

Summers are hot and humid, with tropical nights and high humidity. August temperatures can reach 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Typhoons occasionally pass near Iwakuni but rarely strike the area directly. The wettest months tend to be June and July.

LOCAL HISTORY

MCAS Iwakuni occupies a delta comprised of land that was reclaimed by a feudal lord roughly four hundred years ago. The Japanese government commissioned a base here in 1940, and it became a training and defense air station as well as housing Etajima Naval Academy. After being occupied by multiple countries, it became a US Military Base in 1952. Currently, the base population is comprised of over 10,000 personnel, not counting accompanying dependents.

Modern Iwakuni is represented by the major industries of petroleum refining, paper manufacturing, and textiles, and forms a part of the Seto inland-sea side industrial area.

The people of Iwakuni, though culturally reserved, welcome the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the Americans stationed at MCAS Iwakuni. The station regularly participates in projects focused on cultural integration and strengthening the positive relationship between station and local community, such as the Iwakuni Runway Relocation project, completed in 2010, which addressed noise and safety concerns.

GEOGRAPHY

However, much of the city is scenic waterfront, uncountable rivers and streams, Lotus and rice paddies and forests. There are beaches and hiking trails that are reachable by train or bus. A quick drive can transport you to another island, a bamboo forest, temples, world heritage sights or several large cities.

Many sections of Japan are accessible to the Iwakuni traveler. Modern, convenient bullet trains make it easy to visit many towns and resort sites. Although there are several large cities near Iwakuni, Hiroshima is the most notable. Located approximately 25 miles northeast of Iwakuni, it is a great place for shopping, cultural tours and entertainment. It is most famous for the Peace Park and Museum which preserves pictures and relics from the atomic bomb explosion.

While Iwakuni has several historical sites to visit, the larger city of Hiroshima is just a train ride away, with the beautiful island of Miyajima in between. Visit MCCS Connect for destinations and direction. Popular local destinations: Iwakuni Castle, Kintai Bridge, Miyajima Island, Hiroshima Peace Park

LOCAL CUSTOMS

You're not in Kansas anymore! Here are a few customs that may differ from your neck of the woods.

Tipping

Tipping is not a custom once you leave the base, so no more figuring out how much to add to your bill. Occasionally you have a small dish added to your bill, but that is becoming less and less common.

Talking/Eating on Trains

With so many people concentrated in small areas, Japan has developed a culture of respect, to ease possible tensions that arise with close quarters. You'll notice this most on the public transit systems, where everyone is very quiet and you're rarely see your fellow commuters eating anything that could disturb others (either the noise or smell).

MCCS offers multiple Cultural Adaptation events and trips open to Marines and families. The Japanese American Society is another great resource for learning about the culture and people of Japan.

RESOURCES

WELCOME ABOARD BRIEF

All SOFA status new comers ages 13 and up must attend the WAB. This comprehensive brief will address all newly arrivals' concerns, introduce you to the base and familiarize you with laws and cultural differences in Iwakuni. The WAB is held every Monday (except Federal Holidays) from 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM at Club Iwakuni.

The WAB provides details about resources, and policies and procedures for MCAS Iwakuni, along with local resources and cultural information. While it may seem overwhelming at the time, this is an amazing center for resources. Take notes, save the paperwork, review a few weeks after you are settled.

Sponsors are responsible for enrolling newcomers prior to their arrival. Please call Information & Referral at 253-6161 for details or to enroll.

FACEBOOK

Disseminating information is complicated at MCAS Iwakuni. Facebook has become the primary medium for collective communication. Almost all the organizations through the base, MCAS and MCCS, along with community led groups have created Facebook pages (including topics like play-dates, interior decorating, sewing, exploration, sales and donations, and book clubs).

If you are joining us here in VMFA 121, ask your sponsor to add you to the Facebook group, Spouses of the Green Knights.

The Iwakuni Spouses' Facebook page is a great resource to connect with other spouses and crowd-source information.

SHOPPING

The base has a commissary, 2 Marine Marts (7-day mini shops), and a new MCX. Be aware that the MCX has a standard set of styles provided, but some clothes sold are not cleared for the base dress code.

In town you can find grocery, craft, thrift, general, pharmacy (like CVS), furniture, home décor, bakery, auto supply, and gardening stores. Most Japanese furniture does not line up with US sizes, and many people are frustrated with the available selections. It is highly suggested that if you need house furnishings, you purchase them before your HHG shipment is sent. Most American furnishings will fit in most housing on base.

Daiso is the main dollar store in Japan, and 7-11 is quite different than at home.

There is a Costco in Hiroshima, which is about an hour away, and you can use your US account or sign up once you get here.

There is an IKEA store down in Fukuoka, which is about 3 hours south of Iwakuni. You can rent a car on base which has a toll pass box included, or join one of the trips sponsored by MCCA.

For information on online shopping, see pg. XX under Postal Service.

RELIGIOUS

The chapel on base offers Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, and Muslim services. There are 3 English speaking churches close to the base: Calvary Chapel, Faith Baptist, and Rock Point. All of the churches have websites.

For More Information Explore these Websites:

<https://mccsiwakuni.com/home/marine-family/cultural-relocation-resources/new-to-iwakuni/>

<https://www.japan.travel/en/travel-directory/iwakuni>

<http://usmclife.com/bases/iwakuni-japan/base-guide/>

<https://www.mcasiwakuni.marines.mil/Welcome-Aboard/>

TRANSPORTATION IN IWAKUNI

Getting Around Base / Town

On Foot: Iwakuni MCAS is working toward becoming a truly walkable community. Sidewalks are everywhere and many people bike around base. There are also numerous pedestrians and bikers off base throughout the city of Iwakuni.

Shuttle Bus/Station Motor T: The station runs shuttle buses starting at 6 AM until 9:30 PM throughout the base. Schedule and route are posted at most stops and can also be found in the hardcopy Guide to Iwakuni (these are distributed at the Welcome Aboard Fee). Call 253-3944 for additional information. At times the bus route/schedule is modified due to construction on the base.

On-Base Taxis: You'll find taxi stands at several locations around the base, including across from the Crossroads Mall and the Strike Zone Bowling Center. You can also call (0827)21-1111 or (0827)31-5151 to have a commercial cab come to you. If you're off base, make sure the taxi is authorized to drive on base. A simple "Base ok?" to the driver will usually do the trick.

Public Transportation

Train transportation in Japan is excellent. Trains are scheduled frequently on all major routes; fares are reasonable and schedules are strictly adhered to. Language is seldom a problem as the Japanese National Railway has gone to considerable length to facilitate travel by all people. Bus service in the area is also reliable. The Information and Referral Office will provide information on getting to know the routes, schedules and operations of the buses. It is polite to keep talking and eating/drinking to a minimum while using public transportation. With so many people concentrated in small areas, Japan has developed a culture of respect, to ease possible tensions that arise with close quarters. You'll notice this most on the public transit systems, where everyone is very quiet and you're rarely see your fellow commuters eating anything that could disturb others (either the noise or smell). Taxis are inexpensive and drivers generally understand enough English to get you where you want to go.

Bringing your own vehicle

It is difficult to bring vehicles from the US to Japan due to emission restrictions, small roads, and smaller parking spaces. Big American vehicles are inconvenient. Also, Japanese traffic drive on the left side of the road, so their vehicles have steering wheels on the right side of the car.

Buying a vehicle

Vehicles are fairly cheap in Japan. It's quite common to buy an (albeit tiny) four-door used vehicle for the ballpark of \$1,000-3,500 in good condition with two years of Japanese Compulsory Insurance (JCI), which is required for all cars in Japan. Most people purchase a motor vehicle once they arrive. Most vehicles purchased are about 10 years old, in good

condition and reliable. Motorcycles are authorized on Station and in town. The same licensing procedures are followed; additionally, a motorcycle driving test is required. Gasoline prices at the base gas station are about what you are accustomed to paying in the States; gasoline prices off-base are about double the price.

Automobiles

E-5s can request permission to be licensed, own a privately owned vehicle or drive a rental car after a 45-day waiting period. Once granted a license, the service member will be limited to on-base driving for the next 15 days. E-4s will be allowed to request permission to be licensed and own a POV or drive a rental car after a 90-day waiting period. Once granted a license, the service member will be limited to on-base driving for the next 30 days. Unaccompanied E-3s and below will not drive a POV or rental car in Japan for their first year of assignment. Licensing is subjected to the Commander's written approval.

In order to obtain a United States Forces Japan (USFJ) Form 4EJ, Operator's Permit for Civilian License, commonly known as "SoFA License" personnel must attend the Welcome Aboard Indoctrination (WAI) and complete the licensing course with a passing score.

When registering a car, the service member is responsible for ensuring the vehicle is properly registered and has appropriate insurance. Please contact PMO at 253-3161 for further details on registration. Every operator of a motor vehicle is held to a high standard of care; failure to exercise this degree of care constitutes negligence under Japanese law. All motor vehicle accident cases involving personal injury or death are closely scrutinized by Japanese law enforcement agencies and prosecution of a criminal charge is likely.

Car Insurance

USAA/etc. does not offer coverage in Japan. There are two car insurance companies right outside the main gate, though, and premiums are much cheaper than anything you paid in the U.S. MCCS also has a contracted insurance company located on base.

If you want to own a personal vehicle in Japan, you have to purchase/complete:

Liability Insurance: The minimum amount required by U.S. Military Law is 30,000,000-yen for bodily injury and 3,000,000-yen for property damage. Insurance may be purchased from an authorized Japanese agency.

Japanese Compulsory Insurance (JCI): JCI must be purchased by a company licensed in Japan. Japanese law requires vehicle owners to carry in their cars at all times a form certifying that JCI has been purchased. A firm selling the policy issues the form. The Japanese government determines level of JCI coverage. Failure to maintain current Japanese Compulsory Insurance (JCI) for your POV will result in suspension or revocation of driving privileges for up to one year.

Inspection: Owners will be required to get their vehicles a biennial safety inspection. The inspection is based upon Japanese safety standards. This can be determined by looking at the expiration date on the title of your vehicle, normally on the bottom left side. This is a requirement under Japanese law and is required for all A/E/Y plated vehicles. This requirement is for vehicle inspections to be accomplished every two years within 30 days of the JCI expiration date.

Driver's License

When military personnel, dependents, or DOD civilian employees drive in Japan, they must obtain a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) driver's license.

To obtain a SOFA driver's license, follow these procedures;

1. Attend the Welcome Aboard.
 - Date: Every Monday, from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 - Location: Club Iwakuni
 - If Monday is a holiday, the orientation will be held on Wednesday.
 - Civilian attire is appropriate.
 - For more information or to sign up, call the Information and Referral Office at 253-6161 (0827-79-6161).

You must have a valid driver's license in the U.S. and a valid DOD ID card, and a copy of orders and accompanied orders. Make sure your US license isn't expired when you get to Japan!

- If you don't possess a valid driver's license in the U.S., you can obtain a driver's license by enrolling in the Driver's Education Course. Students and first time licensed individuals must contact MCCS Employee Development 253-4841 (0827-79-4841). All E-5 and below must have a letter from their respective unit CO authorizing licensing for vehicles. Unaccompanied E-5 and below must meet the minimum time on station requirements before they can apply for a license. Active duty personnel under 26 years of age must complete the driver's improvement course on Marine Net or attend the course locally at the Base Safety Office (Bldg 130).
- Present a valid DoD ID card and a copy of orders or area clearance.

2. Take the mandatory SOFA course.

- Date: Every Monday after Welcome Aboard (WA), from 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.
- Location: Club Iwakuni
- You must take a paper test after the course. The driver's examination must be completed with a passing score and covers international road signs as well as common hazards in the MCAS Iwakuni area.

Here is a link to information you will be tested on (page 21 are the Japanese road signs):
[www.mcbbutler.marines.mil/Portals/189/Docs/Vehicle%20Info/Driving%20on%20Okinawa/MCIPAC%20Safety%20Drivers%20Handbook%20\(Final\).pdf](http://www.mcbbutler.marines.mil/Portals/189/Docs/Vehicle%20Info/Driving%20on%20Okinawa/MCIPAC%20Safety%20Drivers%20Handbook%20(Final).pdf)

Japanese stop sign:



For more information about the SOFA license, contact the Provost Marshal's Office at;

DSN: 253-3161

Commercial number from Japan: 0827-79-3161

Commercial number from U.S.: 011-81-827-79-3161

<http://www.mcasiwakuni.marines.mil/WelcomeAboard/DrivinginJapan.aspx>

Vehicle Registration

All USFJ (US Forces-Japan) personnel assigned to MCAS Iwakuni must register privately owned vehicles, bicycles and weapons with the Pass and Registration Office (Bldg. 608). In accordance with current guidance, accompanied personnel are limited to two passenger vehicles and one motorcycle. Unaccompanied personnel are limited to one passenger vehicle and one motorcycle. All personnel must de-register all vehicles/weapons prior to Permanent Change of Station. When purchasing a vehicle from another SOFA status person, you will need secondary insurance on the vehicle being purchased and a valid SOFA license. The current owner must provide a title, current JCI, current Road Tax, and Recycling Receipt. (Orders or Area Clearance must be provided when purchasing a second vehicle and spouses must have Power of Attorney. See the Pass and Registration Office for specific regulations prior to seeking a power of attorney.) All vehicles must be sold prior to a PCS move. Vehicles not sold must be junked or sold prior to PCS. SJA does not allow people to move and leave a power of attorney to sell their vehicle.

Road Tax

An annual Japanese road tax must be paid on all vehicles during the month of April.

Moped- ¥500

Motorcycle- ¥1,000

“A” Plate- ¥3,000

“Y” Plate (over 4,500 cc)- ¥22,000

“Y” Plate (under 4,500 cc)- ¥19,000

“Y” Plate 4 & 5 series- ¥7,500

“100Y” Plate- ¥32,000.

Vehicles receive an “A” Plate or “Y” Plate based on the weight of the vehicle. Most vehicles on base are “Y” Plates. “A” Plates are lightweight vehicles and thus have a lower road tax.

Child Seat Laws

Children less than 4 years of age and less than 45 pounds must be in a child seat at all times on and off the Air Station.

Bicycle, Skateboards, Scooters, and Skate Laws

While riding a bicycle aboard the Air Station, riders must properly wear a bicycle helmet at all times and reflective gear at night. At night, bicycles must be equipped with a light on both the front and rear. Helmets must be worn at all times when operating a skateboard, scooter or skating. Skateboarding, skating and riding a scooter are only permitted within the Air Station.

Traffic Accidents

SOFA status personnel involved in a traffic accident, on or off-base, regardless of the amount of damage, must immediately call the Emergency Dispatch Center, 0827- 21-7700. An accident investigator and interpreter will be immediately dispatched to the accident. Comply with all Japanese Police instructions until military police arrives to assist. **DO NOT LEAVE THE SCENE.** Personnel who leave the scene of an accident, regardless of intent to later report, may be charged with fleeing the scene of an accident. Report the accident to your insurance agency regardless of who is at fault.

COMMUNICATION & MEDIA

There are a few different options for cell phone service in Japan. There are the Japanese cell phone providers (Softbank, Docomo, and AU) and there's also the option of keeping your U.S. number and adding the international use feature to your existing plan IF you have Sprint or T-Mobile. Please contact your mobile provider for any questions about your specific account and adding the international use to your plan prior to moving to Japan. If you have an unlocked phone and want to use it in Japan, it will work with a Japanese SIM card. For cell phones sold in Japan, the cell phone camera shutter sound cannot be muted due to law.

Cell Phone Providers: The providers available to you in Japan are Softbank, AU and Docomo. Softbank has a location on base and provides an English speaking staff. AU and Docomo locations are available off base, however may not provide assistance in English. It is important to note that in Japan, cell phone providers AUTOMATICALLY renew any two-year contracts. Most providers will give you a grace period in which you can choose to go month-to-month after your 2 years are up. Be sure to ask your provider, prior to purchase. If you are staying less than two years you may want to look at other options besides the traditional plan (see below). If you are staying for three years, you will want to make sure you do not auto-renew any plan, or you will acquire termination fees. There is NO military clause for avoiding this fee.

At the Softbank on-base location, two-year contracts will automatically be renewed, however there is no cancellation charges for the renewal period, unless you are still paying for a phone with Softbank. There is a military clause for "early PCS orders", however you must provide proof. Visit Softbank one week prior to PCS to confirm your cancellation details. Please ensure that you inquired with Softbank prior to signing your contract.

Other Considerations:

You will also want to contact your current provider about any cancellation fees you may be charged before moving. When you call, make sure you specify that you are moving on military orders as this may result in having any fees waived. You will most likely need to provide a copy of the orders or some other documentation as proof. Most, if not all, U.S. providers will allow you to suspend your current contract for up to three years if you show them orders, therefore allowing you to keep your phone number when you come back.

High Speed Internet: Digital Cable Television and high-speed internet in on-base housing is provided by Americable. Please visit the Americable website for packages and pricing at www.americablejapan.com

Apps:

There are many free and cost effective apps available in the iTunes App Store and the Google Play Store that will easily allow you to keep in touch with your friends and family back in the states, such as: Skype, Google Voice, WhatsApp, FaceTime.

There are also a number of apps that are specifically helpful for living in Japan:

<u>Language:</u>	<u>Emergency:</u>
<p>Google Translate</p>  <p>Google Translate Google, Inc. 4.5 ★★★★★ #1 4+</p>	<p>Japan Shelter Guide</p>  <p>Japan Shelter Guide 1st Media Corporation</p>
<p>Sayhi</p>  <p>SayHi Translate SayHi 4.7 ★★★★★ 4+</p>	<p>Iwakuni Shimin News</p>  <p>Iwakuni Shimin News IWAKUNI CITY</p>
<p>Duolingo</p>  <p>Duolingo Duolingo 4.7 ★★★★★ #8 4+</p>	<p>YureKuru Call</p>  <p>Yurekuru Call RC Solution Co.</p>
<p>Human Japanese / Lite</p>  <p>Human Japanese Lite Learn Japanese with your personal Brak Software, Inc.</p>	<p><u>Travel:</u></p>
<p>Learn Japanese!</p>  <p>Learn Japanese!! Howell Peebles OPEN</p>	<p>Hyperdia</p>  <p>HYPERDIA by VOICE Hitachi Systems, Ltd. 2.7 ★★★★★ 4+</p>
<p>Dr. Moku Hiragana / Lite</p>  <p>Dr. Moku's Hiragana Mnemonics LITE Learn Japanese Hiragana fast!</p>	<p>JapanTaxi</p>  <p>JapanTaxi JapanTaxi Co.,Ltd. 4.7 ★★★★★ 4+</p>
<p><u>General:</u></p>	<p>Japan Travel</p>  <p>Japan Travel - route, map, JR NAVITIME JAPAN CO.,LTD. GET</p>
<p>AFN Pacific</p>  <p>AFN Pacific doapp, inc OPEN</p>	

POSTAL SERVICE IN JAPAN

How to Get a PO Box (PSC Box)

- Have your sponsor bring a copy of your original orders (and your area clearance if you're bringing your family) down to the Main Post Office to open your PO box. Be sure all family members' full, legal names are listed on the area clearance exactly as they appear on their Military ID Card or passport to include those with different last names (if applicable).
- E-mail to M_IWKN_SMBiwakunipostal@nmci.usmc.mil a copy of your PCS Orders and Area Clearance Form.
- Wait till you arrive to the air station to establish a mailing address for you and/or your family.

Immediately upon arrival at MCAS Iwakuni, all PO Box holders will need to come to the Parcel Pickup Window at the Main Post Office to fill out some paperwork, sign for PO Box keys, and pick up any mail that may have already arrived for them.

Important Note: These PO boxes are to be used exclusively for the receipt of personal mail for you and/or your family. Per currently existing postal regulations, they may not be used to receive mail pertaining to home businesses or similar profit-making ventures, nor can they be used by any person other than the assigned box holder and their command-sponsored family members.

How to Address Mail to a PSC Box

Your complete mailing address is:

- Full Name
- PSC 561 Box ____ (Never use terms such as "PO Box," "POB," or "#")
- FPO (city field), AP (state field) 96310-____ (last 4 digits are dependent on your box number)
- *** DO NOT ADD COUNTRY, CITY, OR BASE NAME***

Example:

CPT JOHN DOE
PSC 561 BOX 4190
FPO AP 96310-0050

Mailing Restrictions

Please review the mailing restrictions and other information at:

<http://www.mcasiwakuni.marines.mil/WelcomeAboard/PostalInformation/>

Other information

- When sending packages to the Military (APO/FPO/DPO) you pay domestic prices.
- Best option from CONUS is for mail to be sent USPS Priority Mail. Flat rate boxes are a good option.
- Mail sent via UPS, FedEx, or basic USPS shipping can take 6-10 weeks to arrive.
- Most orders from Amazon Prime are sent USPS in a timely fashion.

Further Reading

http://about.usps.com/publications/pub640/pub640_tech.htm

<http://www.twasite.com/blog-0/bid/80119/A-Guide-for-Shipping-to-APO-and-FPO-Addresses>

Companies That Will Ship to PSC/FPO Boxes

This is not an exhaustive list, and some of the companies included might not ship oversized objects to PSC/FPO Boxes. Always check the company's shipping policies before buying online.

Adidas	Express	Petco
Amazon	Free People	Petsmart
American Eagle	Gap	Piperlime
American Girl	Hancock Fabrics	Pottery Barn
ASOS	Hobby Lobby	Ralph Lauren
Athletica	JCPenney's	REI
Banana Republic	Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft	Sephora
Bath and Body Works	Stores	Target
Beauty.com	Kohl's	TOMS
Buckle	Land of Nod	Underarmour
Carters	MAC Cosmetics	Victoria Secret
Children's Place	Macy's	Wal-Mart
Crate and Barrel	Mpix	West Elm
Dick's Sporting Goods	Nordstrom	Williams-Sonoma
Disney Store	Old Navy	Zappos
DSW	Oriental Trading Company	
elf Makeup & Cosmetics	Party City	

<http://boholisticmom.com/main/natural-lifestyle/companies-ship-fpo-apo-dpo>

BANKING IN JAPAN

Japanese Currency – Yen (¥)

Coins are minted in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 50, 100 and 500 yen. Bank notes are higher denominations of 1000, 5000, and 10000 yen. On base, foreign currencies may be exchanged for Japanese yen at the Community Bank branch and ATM's, Club Iwakuni Cash Cage, Northside Marine Mart Cash Cage and the MCX Cash Cage. The MCX also has a Western Union at the Cash Cage. Off base, Japanese yen can be purchased at come city banks and post offices that have an "EXCHANGE" sign in English on the door. The Japanese yen exchange rate varies daily. The best way to keep up to date with the exchange rate is to monitor it on the AFN Pacific app that can be downloaded on your iPhone or Android.



Green Knight Tip: As you begin to travel around beautiful Japan, you will find your pockets will begin to be weighed down with coins! As a fun saving tips during your stay here, considered emptying your pockets after your adventures in a piggy bank or jar to either exchange for U.S. dollars before you leave or exchange it once a year before a family vacation for extra "fun" money!

Financial Institutions Aboard MCAS Iwakuni

There are two American banks aboard the Air Station for your banking needs.

Community Bank- Bldg 410 (Crossroads)

One of the first priorities when arriving in Iwakuni is accessing local currency. Community Bank makes it easy with free local currency exchange in their banking center and conveniently located ATMS that dispense both U.S. dollar and Japanese yen. Other products and services Community Bank offers includes checking accounts, loan products, and lines of credit, savings accounts and certificates of deposit, ATM cards and check cards, U.S. dollar wire transfers, online banking and U.S. bill payment.

Learn more at www.dodcommunitybank.com

Phone: 0827-79-4777
DSN: 253-4777

Hours: M-Th: 0900-1500
Fri & Paydays: 0900-1700
Sat & Sun: Closed

ATM Locations

Cross Roads Food Court
Location: Bldg #410

Club Iwakuni
Location: Bldg #600

Marine Mart
Location: Bldg #446

TLF
Location: Bldg #9500

Kure Base
Location: Bldg #200

Enlisted Club
Location: Bldg #185

Navy Federal Credit Union – Bldg 410

Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU) offers a wide range of products and services specifically designed for service members and military families. Products include checking and savings accounts, money market saving account, vehicle loans, motorcycle loans, boat loans, personal expense loans, line of credit with overdraft protection, and multiple credit card options. NFCU has two conveniently placed ATMS, which only provide US Dollars:

ATM Locations:

Cross Roads Food Court
Location Bldg #410

Northside Marine Mart
Location Bldg #1350

Learn more about NFCU at www.navyfederal.org

Phone: 1-888-842-6328 (Toll-Free)
DSN: 253-4797

Hours: 0900-1630
Sat & Sun: Closed

Checks, Credit Cards & Debit Cards

Personal checks are generally not used. Americans have a notoriously hard time finding businesses that will accept debit or credit cards. However, if they do, you will see the card logos that are accepted displayed on businesses door. The only ATMS in Japan that will accept your American debit cards are 7-11 convenience stores or at the Japanese Post Offices. It is important that if you plan on leaving base and exploring the surrounding areas that you stop by an ATMs before heading out!

Pre-paid cards using for public transportation are gaining popularity in Japan. ICOCA is used for the West Japan Railway Company (JR West) and can also be used to make purchases at convenience stores, such as 7-11.

Learn more about ICOCA cards:

https://www.westjr.co.jp/global/en/howto/ticket_03.html

https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2359_003.html

How can I use my debit card abroad?

As long as your debit card is branded with a VISA or MasterCard logo, you can use it to pay for purchases from any merchant location in the world and any ATM where the card network's logo is displayed! To avoid any complications using your debit card abroad, follow the following tips:

- **Bring identification:** Some foreign merchants will request your ID if you make a purchase with your debit card. Some businesses won't accept a foreign ID that isn't government-issued, so carry your passport with you if you plan to use your debit card to make purchases.
- **Keep your PIN short:** In many countries, some older cash machines will only accept four-digit pins. If your current pin is longer, consider changing it to four digits to avoid withdrawal issues.
- **Notify your bank of your travels:** To be certain that your card will work abroad, notify your financial institution of your relocation overseas and countries you will be visiting during your time abroad. Otherwise, your bank may block purchases and withdrawals they regard as suspicious. You may be able to set a travel notification in your bank's online banking system. If not, call or visit your financial institution before traveling.
- **Request a contact number:** Save your bank's toll free or collect call number to reach them in case you encounter problems during your travels. Usually this number can be found on the back of your debit or credit card.

International Fees

The typical costs of using a debit card abroad vary, but the table below provides an idea of what to expect.

Fee/Charge	Cost Per Transaction	Charged By	How To Avoid It
Foreign Transaction	\$2-\$5	Your bank	Get a no foreign transaction fee debit card that also waives/reimburses foreign ATM fees from a bank with global ATM networks. Click on the details of each checking account above to find out if these are options.
Foreign ATM Fee	1% - 3% of transaction total	Your bank	
Foreign ATM Owner Surcharge	Depends on machine owner	ATM owner	
Dynamic Currency Conversion	Up to 7% of transaction total	Merchant/ATM owner	Refuse every offer at the cash register or ATM to convert your transaction total in dollars (or other home currency).

There are other ways to circumvent international ATM charges on your debit card. Review the following tips:

- **Limit withdrawals:** Although it's advisable not to carry wads of cash with you overseas, it's a good idea to estimate how much cash you will need before making the withdrawal. Making a one-time withdrawal versus several can save you a hefty sum if your bank charges foreign ATM fees.
- **Pay with plastic:** Making purchases with a no foreign transaction fee credit card or debit card will reduce your need for cash and thereby reduce the ATM fees you'll pay for withdrawing money.
- **Don't make balance inquiries at ATMs:** Inquiring about your account balance(s) at a foreign ATM might be recognized as a withdrawal by the machine; consequently you may be charged a foreign ATM fee and foreign ATM owner surcharge. Consider using your financial institutions online or mobile banking app to avoid unnecessary charges.

For more information on how to avoid international fees, please visit your local financial institution and ask about their international banking fees or debit and/or credit card options.

Addition resources:

<https://www.smartertravel.com/2017/06/19/atms-abroad-travelers-need-know/>

<https://www.worldnomads.com/explore/eastern-asia/japan/money-in-japan>

International banking on www.nerdwallet.com

11 Top Credit Cards with No Foreign Transaction Fees:

<https://thepointsguy.com/guide/top-cards-with-no-foreign-transaction-fees/>



MARINE COMMANDS ABOARD MCAS IWAKUNI



MCAS Iwakuni supports several units and tenants aboard the air station to help enable them to accomplish their intended mission.



Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron (H&HS) supports the base in many ways, ranging from PMO to airfield operations (air traffic controllers, aircraft rescue and firefighting, weather service, and more), to logistics (fuels, food service, DMO, and others) and facilities, as well as the actual headquarters component (postal, AFN, admin, legal services, and more). More than 700 Marines and sailors are assigned to H&HS, making it the largest unit aboard the installation.



Combat Logistics Company 36 (CLC-36) performs sustained combat service support to Fleet Marine Force organizations aboard MCAS Iwakuni as well as other geographical locations as directed by the Commanding Generals, 3rd Marine Logistics Group.



Marine Air Control Squadron 4 (MACS-4) is based out of MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, Japan; however, they have a permanent detachment here in Iwakuni. They are the aircraft controllers.



Marine Aircraft Group 12 (MAG-12) contains the aircraft assets of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. Known as "The Ready Group," MAG-12 is home to five flying squadrons and a logistical squadron.



The "Bats" of Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, VMFA(AW)-242, have replaced VMFA-212 as the first two-seat Hornet squadron to be based permanently in Japan.



The Green Knights Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121 (VMFA-121) is a Marine Corps aircraft squadron operating F-35B Lightning II. On January 2017, VMFA-121 permanently departed Marine Corps Air station Yuma, Arizona transferring to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. They are the first forward deployed permanent F-35B Squadron aboard Iwakuni.



The "Sumos" of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 (VMGR-152) support the MAGTF (Marine Air-Ground Task Force) Commander by providing aerial refueling and assault support, day or night under all weather conditions, during expeditionary, joint or combined operations. The Sumos have performed this mission flawlessly around the globe for over 70 years!



Marine Aviation Logistic Squadron 12 (MALS-12) provides logistics support, guidance, and direction to MAG-12 and other commands aboard the air station.



Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 (MWSS-171) provides essential Aviation Ground Support to the air station. Nicknamed "American's Squadron," MWSS-171 provides many unique services to Iwakuni personnel.

-USMC-



H&HS



CLC-36



MACS-4 DET B



MAG-12

VMFA(AW)-242

VMFA-121

VMGR-152

MALS-12

MWSS-171

UDP



Navy Commands Aboard MCAS Iwakuni



The Branch Health Clinic Iwakuni (BHC Iwakuni) is a branch of the Naval Hospital, Yokuska, Japan. The BHC Iwakuni provides medical Emergency care, Services for all Active Duty and Dependents, variety of classes and counseling on health-related topics, prescription refills and extensive range of treatment on an appointment basics. Open Monday through Friday they serve civilians upon eligibility.



Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Detachment Iwakuni (AIMD) perform intermediate-level maintenance. AIMD supports station aircraft, tenant squadrons and special units. Their work consist of calibration, repair or replacement of damaged or unserviceable parts, components, or assemblies; limited manufacture of parts; and technical assistance.



11th Dental parent command is located in Okinawa. The dental department is responsible for the oral health of all station military personnel and their dependents. They are open for civilian for emergency only.



The Fleet Readiness Center Western Pacific (FRC WP) is the world class Forward Deployed Aviation Depot Maintenance. They provide quality, responsive depot-level maintenance for all forward deployed Navy and Marine Corps forces through the Pacific. They have three main detachments located in Okinawa, Guam and Iwakuni.



Carrier Air Wing Five (CVW-5), the nation's only "911" air wing- is critical combat strike element of battle Force Seventh Fleet, the only forward-deployed carrier strike group in the U.S. Navy. CVW-5 is home to seven flying squadrons.



The "Royal Mace" of Charges of Strike Fighter Squadron Two Seven (VFA-27) fly the F/A-18E Super Hornet. Making them the only permanent forward-deployed "9-1-1" carrier air wing to patrol the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.



The "Diamondbacks" of Strike Fighter Squadron 102 (VFA-102) fly the F/A-18F Super Hornet. The men and women of VFA-102 continue to train and stand ready to bring the full combat power of the Rhino to bear and enhance stability in the Pacific through strength, cooperation and presence.



The "Eagles" of Strike Fighter Squadron 115 (VFA-115) fly the F/A-18E Super Hornet. VFA-115 has consistently proven to be one of the finest squadrons in the United States Navy. Leading the way in every major conflict since World War II, the Eagles continue a proud heritage.



The prior "Tigers" are now known as the "Dambusters" of Strike Fighter Squadron One Nine Five (VFA-195) flying the F/A-18E Super Hornets. VFA-195 provide formidable forward presence in the western Pacific area of responsibility.



The "Shadowhawks" of Electronic Attack Squadron One Four One (VAQ-141) fly the EA-18G Growler. The Growler is the first newly-designed electronic warfare aircraft produced in more than 35 years. The aircraft also retains all the F/A-18E/F's multi-mission capabilities with its validated design and the capability to perform a wide range of enemy defense suppression missions.



The "Torch bearers" or "Tigertails" of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW-125) fly the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye. The E-2D is an all-weather, carrier capable tactical airborne early warning aircraft with a turboprop designed for radar and radio communications.



The "Providers" of Fleet Logistic Support Squadron Three Zero, Detachment Five (VRC-30 DET 5) fly the C-2 Greyhound. Their mission includes transport of high-priority cargo, mail, duty passengers and distinguished visitors throughout the Western Pacific and Southeast Asia theaters. With their parent squadron headquartered in San Diego, the providers operate from their home station in Iwakuni, Japan, whence they regularly deploy their two C-2A Greyhounds to shore bases.

-USN-



BHC IWAKUNI



AIMD



11th Dental Company det Iwakuni



FRC WP



CVW-5



VFA-27



VFA-102



VFA-115



VFA-195



VAQ-141



VAW-125



VRC-30 DET 5



Japanese Commands Aboard MCAS Iwakuni



MCAS Iwakuni is also home to the Fleet Air Wing 31 (FAW-31). FAW-31 is the senior Japanese tenant command of the Japanese Maritime Self Defense stationed aboard MCAS Iwakuni. FAW-31 performs air/sea search and rescue missions as well as other aviation related security missions.



Special thanks to the L.I.N.K.S. program, coordinated through MCCA for these lists. L.I.N.K.S. is an acronym that stands for Lifestyle Insights, Networking, Knowledge, and Skills. It is an interactive acculturation program to Marine Corps life and the local installation. Participants learn about Corps history and culture, local installation resources, services, and benefits, military pay, separation and deployment, PCS advice, and investing in the community. Partnerships are made with several services and personnel to include financial planners, chaplains, and L.I.N.K.S. mentors. There are programs for Marines, spouses, or children offered almost every month.

DISCLAIMER

We hope this document gives you a base of information to prepare for your upcoming PCS to MCAS Iwakuni. This is in no way comprehensive or intended to provide all the answers for any questions. We have tried to share the links to the official documentation for each section of information. Please investigate further into www.mcasiwakuni.marines.mil, mccsiwakuni.com, and current Marine Corps orders for complete details.

MCAS Iwakuni is a growing station and office departments have the potential to move around. It is possible for phone numbers, building numbers, or even department names to change after this document is published.