It's that time of year again for annual road tax, vehicle decal issuance

From CFAY Security

Annual Road Tax for your vehicle is paid every spring. Payments, which must be made in yen, can be made at the Kanagawa Tax Office for regular sized cars and trucks. Payments for motorcycles and mini-cars can be made at the local city hall or ward office, starting April 1. In accordance with U.S. Forces Japan (USFJ) Policy Letter, vehicles are to be registered at the closest military installation of which vehicle owners are assigned.

To provide a better service to our base community, Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) has arranged for the representatives of the Kanagawa Tax Office to collect this year's road tax onboard CFAY at the Fleet Theater, March 24, 26 and 27 from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 - 2:30 p.m. and April 16 and 17 from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 - 2:30 p.m. This service onboard Yokosuka is also intended for Ikego residents. Road tax collection for those vehicles registered in Negishi will be at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) classroom, Bldg. 19045, in Negishi Housing April 13 and 14 from 9 – 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. It is highly recommended that personnel who require only normal registration services come on times other than road tax payment days due to the high volume of customers.

Vehicle owners can obtain the 2009 U.S. Forces Japan (USFJ) base decal at the respective Vehicle Registration Office (VRO) after road tax has been paid for all vehicles registered to that owner. Therefore, the earliest a person can receive a base decal if he or she owns a mini-car or motorcycle is April 1.

In order to obtain the base decal the following documents must be presented:

- Satus of Forces Agreement (SOFA) ID card
- Proof of payment of the 2009 road tax
- Military Registration and Certificate of Title of Motor Vehicle (DD Form 430)
- Japanese title
- Current Base Inspection sheet
- Japanese Compulsory Insurance (JCI)
- Liability Insurance (a minimum of $300,000 or 30,000,000 yen for bodily injury and $30,000 or 3,000,000 yen for property damage)
- SOFA Driver's license, USFJ form 4EJ (additional driver's license will be necessary if member has more than one vehicle)
- Parking Certificate (if applicable)

Vehicle owners who have not updated their residency information at VRO must provide the address of their current residence and a valid parking certificate before being issued a 2009 USFJ decal. This means the above mentioned personnel now living in base housing will need an approved Parking Certificate Residence Verification form from the Yokosuka Housing Office. Those personnel now living in off base housing will need an approved parking certificate from the appropriate police station. Off base residents will then need to come to the Vehicle Registration Office (VRO) to receive the necessary documents to be taken to the Land Transportation Office (LTO) in Yokohama to change the residence address. For further information concerning the need for a parking certificate prior to decal issue, please contact VRO.

Vehicle owners with more than one vehicle will have to present the above documents for each vehicle before a base decal can be issued. Vehicle owners with unfinished paperwork on any registered, sold or junked vehicles will not be able to receive a new decal for their vehicle until these matters are resolved.

Vehicle owners on board CFAY can obtain the 2009 USFJ base decal at the Vehicle Registration Office (VRO) after road tax has been paid.
Photo by Ben Avey

We are making every effort to accommodate those deployed and their families during this road tax season. We are encouraging spouses and friends to pay road tax, however, an original power of attorney will be required to obtain a base decal for anyone other than a spouse.

The amount of road tax to be paid depends on the type of vehicle, which can be determined by the number shown on the top of the license plate. The respective tax amount is as follows:

- 44Y, 400Y, and 56Y, 57Y, 58Y, 500Y, 529Y plates - 7,500 yen
- 33Y, 300Y, 329Y plates 4.5L and below - 19,000 yen and 22,000 yen for 4.6L and above
- 11Y and 100Y plates - 32,000 yen

Mini cars and motorcycles - Road tax for mini cars and motorcycles must be paid at the local City Hall or Ward offices starting April 1.

Their respective tax amount is as follows:

- Mini cars - 3,000 yen
- Motorcycles 1cc-125cc - 500 yen
- Motorcycles 126cc and above - 1,000 yen

Vehicle owners may check to see if their documents are up to date by looking at the Motor Vehicle Registration Report, which should be in each vehicle registration package. This report lists all the expiration dates of your paperwork.

It is highly recommended that you check to see that all requirements are met and up to date prior to standing in line, as this will ensure expeditious service. Simple questions can be answered by telephone by calling VRO at 243-5011/5896, but for detailed questions our staff will be required to look at your paperwork. Once the road tax has been paid and all paperwork is verified to be in order, vehicle owners, spouses and/or persons with powers of attorney, must remember to stop by VRO to get your 2009 decal.

Base decals must be affixed to the top center of the front windshield, next to the Japanese inspection sticker. The current Japanese inspection sticker, current base decal, installation sticker and rank decals (if applicable) should be the only decals affixed to the windshield. All other decals and inspection stickers from the previous years must be removed.

Navy League tours *GW*

Members of the Commodore Perry Council of the Navy League of the United States purchase souvenirs after finishing a tour of *USS George Washington* (*GW*) (CVN 73) Feb. 1. More than 250 Navy League members attended the tour organized by CFAY which aimed to show appreciation for the generous support the Commodore Perry Council offers Sailors in Japan and the Far East.
Photo by Ben Avey