

Attaining a Japanese license on Naval Air Facility Atsugi

Mass Communication Specialist Vivian Blakely

23 August 2011

## LICENSING

NAVAL AIR FACILITY ATSUGI, Japan – Attaining a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) license on Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi comes with several requirements.

The requirements vary with different age groups and different ranges of experience.

Licenses available to the NAF Atsugi community are temporary or permanent licenses.

“The temporary license is for those who have not been able to get into the [Area Orientation Brief and Inter-cultural Relations (AOB/ICR)] course,” said Takashi Horiuchi, traffic safety manager.

The completion of the AOB/ICR course is a requirement to obtain a permanent license. Because the schedule of the course may vary due to holidays and other situations, completing the course may

take time. In this event, an individual may be eligible to receive a temporary license.

With the temporary license, however, an individual can only drive on base. Permanent licenses allow individuals to venture off base.

Other requirements consist of military orders or a letter of employment, current stateside license or international permit and proof of the completion of certain course relevant to the individual among other documents.

There are those who are not active military and haven't been in the states for several years, said Richard Sussman, installation safety manager. For them, a one time waiver must be signed and issued and they must complete the first time driver's course.

The first time drivers course is offered by a private instructor and the fee is covered by the student or their sponsors.

Requirements for obtaining a license, though general in most cases, can vary in a case by case instance.

For more information, please contact the Safety Administration office at 264-3678 or 011-81-467-63-3678 if calling from the U.S.