司令官の相談室

Capt. Daniel L. Weed, Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka

CMDCM Wayne E. Smith, Command Master Chief

Visa Waiver Program travel Changes – The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) initiated the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA), a new online system that is part of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) this past August. The ESTA web-based system is now open for voluntary applications but becomes mandatory Jan. 12. Once ESTA is mandatory, all nationals or citizens of participating VWP countries who plan to travel to the United States for 90 days or less for temporary business or pleasure under the VWP will need to receive an electronic travel authorization prior to boarding a U.S. bound airplane or cruise ship. Anyone traveling using VWP will need to ensure to process ESTA at least 72 hours prior to departure. This is applicable not only for official travel such as Temporary Additional Duty (TAD), Emergency Leave travel and medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) but also for your private travel. Visit the U.S. Embassy Web site at http://tokyo.usembassy.gov/e/visa/tvisa-esta2008.html or the Electronic System for Travel Authorization Web site at: https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/esta.html?_flowExecutionKey=_cDF02137F-CF9C-11CE-9929-C2D7A8FDD806_kA0E1E0C7-8022-4497-57F8-7A4123696F7D for more information.

Seahawk Articles/Photos and Community Announcement Submissions – Deadline for community announcements and article/photo submissions for the Seahawk is the Friday before the next Seahawk edition. E-mail your submissions to Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil. Please include your telephone contact information in the body of the e-mail. Contact the Seahawk editor at Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil or call 243-2567/3003 for specific submission requirements or for more information.

Q: There are three reserved parking spots in front of the Fleet ATM. The *USS George Washington* has commandeered one of these spots for the ship's chaplain. Parking on this base is at a premium, and it has been the policy of this base to reduce the number of reserved parking. To make matters worse, the person whose vehicle is parked in the reserved chaplain spot has an enlisted red sticker on their windshield along with the *USS George Washington* reserve parking placard.

A: Thank you for pointing out the error with the location of USS George Washington reserved parking spots. The reserved parking spots are a temporary measure and are a part of the approved, basewide parking plan. As of Dec. 18, the three ATM parking spots were appropriately designated. Additionally, a work request to repaint the ATM parking designation signs on the ground has been submitted.

Q: Can someone provide information to the following questions in regards to the School Advisory Committees (SAC):

- Where can I find the official policy on SAC?
- Who is in charge of SAC?
- Who serves on SAC?
- How do parents get in touch with SAC for the various schools?
- How is SAC supposed to operate?
- Where can parents obtain information about SAC activities at the various schools?

A: The School Advisory Committee (SAC) Policy is a Department of Defense (DoD) instruction and can be obtained by going to http://www.dodea.edu/foia/iod/pdf/i1342_15.pdf. SAC is a part of the Educational Advisory Committee and Council structure established by the aforementioned instruction. Each SAC elects a chair, usually a parent and its purpose is to advise school administrators in matters such as school policy, education resources, allocation of resources, school services and student standards of conduct and discipline. A local SAC is comprised of an elected body of an equal number of parents and professional (credentialed) employees. Elections are generally held in the spring. The size of a SAC is relative to the size of the school. Contact your local school for more information on SAC. Most schools have contact information in the school newsletter or posted at the school entrance. Some schools have an e-mail box or suggestion box. The DoD instruction addresses and outlines the operating procedures for SAC. SAC is encouraged to establish local by-laws that outline local implementation of the DoD instruction. Contact your local school for more information on SAC.

Action Line correspondence may be edited for length and readability. Your questions, suggestions and "Bravo Zulu" comments are appreciated. Address concerns with your chain of command or directly with the parties involved, at the lowest level possible. If you don't get results, send an e-mail to cfay.pao.watch@fe.navy.mil. We welcome your feedback, especially if it is of a general nature and can help others. To contact the Seahawk, call 243-5607/3003 or send an e-mail to: Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil.

Parking policy for Fleet Activities Yokosuka

By CFAY Safety Office

The parking situation onboard the installation is an everyday concern for all of us who work and reside on the base. Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) has very strict rules for the different categories of parking and we all must adhere to them in order to maintain an equal share of parking spaces for all activities and designated areas. Reserved parking is a privilege, not a right. At no time will parking be designated in any area by category of employees such as "Military or Civilian Only." The intent of the policy is to ensure all employees and residents authorized access to the base have the same opportunity to park as close to their place of employment or housing as possible. The painting of curbs, painting of signs or any other method of designating reserved parking will not be completed by any person or command unless specifically approved by CFAY.

The following are the different categories of parking and guidance for each:

- Open Parking. Open to vehicles for up to 24 hours. Vehicles should not be left unattended for more than 24 hours unless the area is designated for long-term parking, assigned residential parking or government vehicle parking.
- Long Term Parking. The designated long-term parking areas are located in the parking garage adjacent to The Sullivans' Elementary School. Displaying a vehicle for sale is only authorized in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) used car lot located next to the commissary. Permits must be obtained through the MWR Auto Hobby Shop. Permits to park and advertise your car for sale in the community lot adjacent to the MWR lot must be obtained through CFAY Security.
- Reserved parking for commands. Commands, activities or agencies with a staff of 30 or more employees are authorized a sufficient number of reserved parking spaces for the commanding officer (CO), executive officer (XO), command master chief (CMC) and department heads with the rank of commander or civilian equivalent and above. In addition, one visitor parking space is authorized for and shall be labeled as such, "CO/XO/CMC Visitors." For commands with less than 30 staff members, one reserved space for the CO or officer in charge (OIC) is authorized. Each command should have a sufficient number of spaces for each permanently assigned government vehicle.
- Housing areas. Each housing area has assigned parking for the residents and their visitors. These spaces are not to be used to drop off or pickup school students. Additional traffic in these areas creates a hazard to children and is disrespectful to the residents of those areas.
- Other prohibited parking areas. A vehicle shall not be stopped, parked or left unattended in the following areas:
- Within 15 feet of a crosswalk, fire hydrant or intersection.
- In intersections or bus stops.
- Blocking building entrances or fire exits.
- Any place where there are yellow or white painted stripes on the ground.
- Along a yellow painted curb.
- Loading zones.
- Inoperable vehicles. Inoperable vehicles may not be left in a parking space unless they have been impounded by Security or are being fixed in an approved repair facility such as the Navy Exchange Autoport or Auto Hobby Shop. Inoperable vehicles must either be taken to a repair facility or junked.
- Piers and industrial areas. Vehicles will not be parked on berths in a manner, which obstructs fire lanes, crane tracks or the berthing of ships during mooring evolutions. Leaving a government vehicle parked on a pier for more than three days is prohibited. Ships or deployed commands should turn their vehicles into Public Works Department Transportation Office if not in use. Parking along the road edge past the tunnels is prohibited. This is considered an industrial area where service vehicles, pedestrians and bicycle traffic travel to and from the pier areas.

Any vehicle illegally parked is subject to being ticketed and towed if it is creating an unsafe condition. The determination of "unsafe condition" shall be made by the on scene security patrolman or by a representative from CFAY Security or Safety Office.

For questions concerning parking policies, please contact the Traffic Safety Division at 243-7354.

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka
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