司令官の相談室

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

BMCM(SW/EXW) Raynard Kidd, Acting Command Master Chief

Carney "Boardwalk" Pedestrian Gate Closure due to Upgrade – The Carney "Boardwalk" Pedestrian Gate will be closed from now through Aug. 27 due to the installation of the new Smart Gate. The new gate will allow pedestrians 24-hour access to the base provided they are properly registered in the Defense Biometric Identification Data System (DBIDS). The DBIDS registration office is located at the main gate inside building 1495. Customer service hours are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Interested in becoming a Certified Mediator? – Opportunities are available for Sailors, civilians and Japanese Master Labor Contract (MLC) employees to become certified mediators. Mediators are neutral and objective members trained to facilitate resolution of workplace disputes. Successful mediators possess qualities to include fairness, patience, credibility, integrity, neutrality, active listening skill and a professional demeanor. Mediators assist participants with identifying issues, fostering joint problem solving and exploring settlement opportunities in a neutral environment. Mediators, however, do not make decisions or force a decision on the parties in the dispute. Mediation training includes an introduction to mediation skills, advance mediation skills, a screening and evaluation session to ensure candidates possess the skills required and three co-mediations with a certified mediator. Participation will require occasional time away from the office to attend training and to conduct mediations. Supervisory approval is required for participation in the Mediator Certification Program. If you are interested in learning more about the mediation program and willing to make the commitment of time and effort to become a certified mediator, contact the CNFJ Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program Manager at 243-9579.

Military Advancement Study Opportunity Offered – Need help understanding your bibliography? Can't find items on your bibliography? Do you want to learn good study habits to better your opportunity for advancement? Contact CSCS Randall Clift at 243-5774, by e-mail to randall.clift@fe.navy.mil or stop by building 3333 for more information.

Seahawk/Umitaka Community Announcements and Article/photo 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: What is the policy on headphone use while either walking or running on base? I have been stationed around the world and at every base the use of headphones anywhere on base, other than a running track, was prohibited. There have been several occasions where I have had to either slam on my brakes, swerve or just plain yell at someone to get their attention as they have wandered into the middle of the road because they are watching a video on their ipod instead of watching where they are going. I feel that it is only a matter of time before a Sailor is run over, especially in the congested area near the piers.

A: In response to your question and in accordance with Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Instruction COMFLEACTINST 5800.2F, the following is provided: "The use of portable headphones, earphones and other listening devices while jogging or walking is authorized for use in all locations except on roads and streets. Pedestrians shall not enter or use crosswalks while using these listening devices. Users should keep the volume of any device they are using at a sufficiently low level to stay aware of their surroundings at all times." For more detailed guidance, please read the entire instruction available on the CFAY Web site at https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Yokosuka/index.htm located under the "Quick Links" section.

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.

Service members in Japan to see COLA decrease in fall

By CNFJ Public Affairs

According to a message released Aug. 7 from Personnel Support Detachment Yokosuka Japan, service members stationed in Japan will see a decrease in their Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) starting Oct. 1. The Principals of the Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee (PDTATAC) approved the adjustments in the COLA rates for Japan Aug. 6 allowing for a two point per month decrease until the final rate adjustment is complete.

Service members can calculate approximately how much of a dollar decrease they will see in their COLA payments by using $25 per point as a reference. The changes are variable according to the service member's pay grade, time in service and dependency status.

"It's important that all of the military members in the region are aware of this change," said Commander Naval Forces Japan regional Command Master Chief Bob Shannon. "We have all become accustomed to a certain level of pay and for many this will be a significant decrease."

The decrease in allowance is a result of analysis by the PDTATAC from which the committee determined a decrease was justified. According to the PDTATAC Web site, the committee uses two surveys to determine the relative cost of living; a Living Pattern Survey (LPS) and a Retail Price Schedule (RPS). The data from those surveys comes directly from input provided from uniformed service members. The surveys includes questions which ask service members which local stores they shop in and what percentage of goods they purchase there as well as how much of their purchases are made in the base exchange and commissary.

Results from the April and May RPS reports from 10 reporting locations in Japan were used in the analysis for determining the current rate decrease.

"This just shows how important it is for service members to actively participate in the Living Pattern Surveys because their answers directly impact their pay checks," said Shannon.

According to the Web site the prices from the surveys are "compared with prices in the United States for equivalent goods and services at the same point in time." COLA is paid when the cost of those goods are determined to be greater overseas than in the United States.

In the case of Japan, it was determined that prices in the affected duty locations did not increase at the same rate as prices in the states and, in fact, some prices in Japan actually decreased.

The changes are still contingent upon intervening events such as a change in the local currency exchange rate. The cost of Japanese Compulsory Insurance (JCI), which is mandatory for all service members and dependants who are authorized to drive in Japan, was also included in the analysis.

The list below shows the current and adjusted point schedule for each location along with the amount of decrease.

Locality	Current	New	Pt Chg
Atsugi	142	136	-6
Camp Zama	144	132	-8
Iwakuni	138	128	-10
Kure/Eda Jima	172	162	-10
Misawa	138	128	-10
Okinawa	140	130	-10
Sasebo	144	136	-8
Tokyo City	172	166	-6
Yokohama	158	148	-10
Yokosuka	150	142	-8
Yokota	136	126	-10

For more information and answers to frequently asked questions about military pay and allowances visit the PDTATAC Web site at www.defensetravel.dod.mil/perdiem/.

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