

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO TO:

JAPAN

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Note: Above table is hyperlinked to paragraphs below

WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS:

Navy personnel:

- A. Assigned to a USMC Command or Unit on Okinawa, Japan: 25 percent of full JTR weight allowance or 2,600 pounds, whichever is greater.
- B. Japan (Includes Navy personnel assigned to a Non-USMC Command or Unit on Okinawa, Japan)-Full JTR weight allowance is allowed-This DOES NOT indicate customers should ship their full authorized weight.
 - Housing in Japan is smaller than homes in CONUS.
 - Commercial storage in Japan is almost non-existent and Base Housing offices will NOT fund overflow items to be sent back for Non-temporary Storage.
 - Average waiting time for military on-base housing is 12-24 months.
- C. Shipment of household good (HHG) on Accompanied Tours requires Dependent/Family entry message showing approval. It is the Member’s responsibility to provide the message to the House Goods Office prior to shipment of HHG.

CONSUMABLES:

Alcoholic Beverages and Cigarettes/Tobacco Products:

Under current US Forces policy, there are no restrictions on importation of alcohol and tobacco products.

ELECTRIAL EQUIPMENT:

No restrictions identified

FURNITURE, OVERSIZED:

- A. Misawa AB: Due to shortage of Government-owned essential furniture items, members with pay grade of E5 and above serving an accompanied tour are required to ship privately-owned essential furniture items, i.e., beds, clothes chests, dining set, and living room sets to Misawa AB, JA, in conjunction with their PCS move. Attention: Please be advised all major appliances such as stoves, refrigerators, washers, and dryers are available and will be furnished by the Government. Exception is a freezer, which is not provided by the Government. Due to small size of on and off-base quarters, contact your local sponsor for additional data concerning size and available floor space of quarters. Consider Non-temporary Storage (NTS) of nonessential items to avoid unnecessary and expensive commercial storage at Misawa area.
- B. Yokota AB: Effective 1 September 1998, Air Force personnel assigned to Yokota will be authorized concurrent travel. Individuals should contact their sponsors or their gaining command to inquire about housing and the availability non-availability of government furnishings.
- C. YOKOSUKA Naval Base, Yokohama, CFAY SASEBO, NAF ATSUGI, MCAS IWAKUNI: All DoD personnel MUST be counseled that Commercial Storage in Japan is almost non-existent. Most local economy Japanese-styled homes or apartments cannot accommodate large furniture items. Items may not fit through doorways, staircases, elevators or windows. Customers may incur excess cost to dispose of or relocate excess or oversized furniture. To avoid unnecessary and expensive commercial storage, large furniture items and major appliances such as a washer, dryer, gas range, freezer, refrigerator, large couches sofas and king size bed sets should be placed in NTS at origin for duration of the overseas tour. Major appliances are furnished in both Government Quarters and Off-Base Housing (local economy) upon request from the command-sponsored DoD customer.

SEXUALLY EXPLICIT / PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL:

The importation of pornographic material is a violation of Japanese law. Any exposure of the pubic area is considered pornographic. Those items determined to be pornographic will be confiscated and destroyed.

FIREARMS/KNIFES/SWORDS:

A. HAND GUNS:

For further details below under Requirements.

B. RIFLES/SHOT GUNS:

For further details below Requirements.

C. TOY RELATED GUNS:

Importation of imitation handguns made from metal in a form remarkably resembling a handgun is not authorized. No restrictions identified for toy-related guns.

D. REQUIREMENTS:

1. U.S. Forces Japan (USFJ) personnel must meet the requirements of Japanese law when importing or possessing POFs in Japan. Japanese laws are strict. Japanese police that discover U.S. Forces personnel carrying a pocket knife or other bladed instruments without a justifiable reason (Self-Defense or General use are not sufficient reasons in Japan) may be apprehended for violation of the Firearms and Swords Control Law or other laws. USFJI 31-207, Firearms and Other Weapons in Japan contains detailed information on what weapons can and cannot be shipped to Japan. It also incorporates changes to Japanese law with regard to possession and ownership of knives and other bladed instruments. The Japanese Government has PROHIBITED local agents in Japan from linehauling HHGs shipments containing firearms on Japanese highways. USFJ members are NOT AUTHORIZED to import or possess the following in Japan (includes Okinawa).(1)Handguns(2)A muffler or a silencer for any firearm(3)Machine gun(4)Shotguns larger than 12 gauge (i.e. 8 and 10 gauge are prohibited(5).410 caliber shotguns that the Japanese government considers Technically capable of firing a rifle round.(6)Any power-charged rifle for hunting game birds.(7)Imitation handgun. Any product made from metal in a form remarkably resembling a handgun.
2. POF SHIPPING: Privately owned firearms will not be shipped in either unaccompanied baggage (UB) or household goods (HHG) shipments to from Japan. Shotguns and rifles will be mailed to Japan through the U.S. Postal System, consigned to the Commander, unit of assignment, of the gaining member, and stored IAW Commanders guidance developed IAW paragraph 12.1 and 12.2 of USFJI 31-207 until properly registered IAW with paragraph 5.6.
3. POF STORAGE: Service Component and installation Commanders will determine firearms storage requirements for persons residing in accompanied housing on U.S. installations. Privately owned firearms will not be stored in unaccompanied housing quarters or billeting. Privately owned firearms may only be stored in off base housing once they have been properly registered with the government of Japan and comply with Japanese laws for firearms storage. Until personnel acquire their firearms permit, weapons must be stored in approved weapon storage areas within USFJ installations.
4. COMMANDER AUTHORIZATION: Service commanders are authorized to impose more stringent requirements than those outlined herein regarding privately owned firearms (POFs). It is imperative that all inbound personnel interested in shipping firearms and other weapons as part of a move to Japan contact their unit of assignment prior to arranging shipments.

5. **POF REGISTRATION:** All privately owned firearms must be registered at the installation where owners are assigned within 7 days after importation or acquisition. Japanese firearm permits are required for possessing, using, storing, and transporting privately owned firearms outside U.S. installations and facilities.
6. **ALL U.S. NAVAL INSTALLATIONS IN JAPAN (FLC Yokosuka, Sasebo, and Atsugi):** Importation of all types of firearms into Japan is prohibited. U.S. military members, or U.S. Civilian components, assigned to duty either on a permanent basis, or extended temporary duty, shall not import by mail, or household good shipments, any type of handgun, rifle, shotgun, pellet, air or bb guns.
7. **FOR OKINAWA:** Importation of handguns, rifles, pellet, air and BB guns to Okinawa is strictly prohibited. Possession of these types of firearms on Okinawa is not authorized. Shotguns, may be imported, however, it is strongly discouraged. Use of parcel post only (subject to postal regulations). Members must mail shotgun(s) to their gaining unit Commander, marked for member. Shotguns **MUST** be stored in the armory and can only be checked out as needed for approved use. DOD members must have a current Japanese gun permit prior to transporting, using, storing, or otherwise possessing firearms outside military installations on Okinawa. DoD members planning to ship shotguns must coordinate with their sponsors or gaining unit before proceeding with the shipment.
8. **AGE REQUIREMENT:** Persons under 20 years old are prohibited from owning, purchasing, possessing, carrying, or registering privately owned firearms and ammunition in Japan. This includes military members under 20 years old.
9. **AMMUNITION:** Members are prohibited from importing or exporting privately owned ammunition into Japan. The sale or transfer of ammunition to non-SOFA status individuals is strictly prohibited.
10. **BLADED INSTRUMENTS:** Japanese law prohibits restricts bladed instruments outside of U.S. installations and facilities. Items prohibited from importing into Japan, including Okinawa are:
 - a. Privately owned daggers and double-edged knives with a blade length of 5.5 centimeters (2.1 inches) or longer.
 - b. Spring switchblade knives with a mechanism to automatically open a blade 45 degrees or more.
11. **CUTLERY:** Cutlery (such as kitchen knives, box cutters, or other single, non-folding bladed cutting instruments) exceeding 6 centimeters (2.3 inches) are prohibited outside of U.S. installations and facilities unless carried for business or other justifiable reasons. Recommend shorter bladed instruments also not be carried unless for business or other justifiable reason. Cutlery that is less than 6 centimeters (2.3 inches) without a justifiable reason may also result in being detained or apprehended for a violation of a Minor Offense law
12. **SCISSORS OR FOLDING KNIVES:** Scissors or folding knives exceeding 8 centimeters (3.1 inches) are prohibited outside of U.S. installations and facilities unless carried for business or other justifiable reasons. Folding knives stated above does not include switchblades which are categorized as swords.

13. **SWORDS:** Swords may be detained or confiscated by Japanese Customs officials upon entry into Japan. Swords that are part of an official U.S. military (including U.S. Coast Guard) uniform do not require a permit or registration with the Japanese authorities. However, they must be listed on the owners travel orders.
 - a. For transporting swords outside of U.S. installations for other than official U.S. military ceremonies, authorization must be obtained from the local Public Safety Commission (Police Department) prior to the event. Transporting official military swords outside of U.S. facilities and areas as part of official ceremonial functions, or as part of an official uniform, and also when entering or departing Japan, should be authorized in writing by appropriate commanders. A person that carries or transports a privately owned sword (non-part of an official U.S. military uniform) outside of U.S. installations shall carry a Japanese license or registration certificate for the sword
14. **BLADED INSTRUMENT TRANSPORTATION:** Transporting privately owned bladed instruments outside U.S. facilities and areas for off-base cultural or sporting activities must be IAW Japanese law. For transporting knives or other cutlery to camping or other recreational events, it is recommended to pack the items with the camping or other gear to confirm their intended use.
15. **BOWS AND ARROWS:** Recreational bows arrows are considered weapons and must be controlled to prevent misuse. Recreational bows arrows are authorized under the following conditions: (1) Individual Use. Personal bows arrows for individual recreational use may only be imported into Japan via authorized household shipments or purchased through authorized retailers in Japan, including through Article XV organizations. (2) Personnel are authorized to store bows arrows in their on base government quarters, unless otherwise directed by local installation instructions. Storage of bows arrows in off installation residences will be in accordance with Japanese law. Bows arrows will be stored in a locked container or closet to prevent access to minors or unauthorized personnel when not in use. Storage of bows arrows is not authorized in unaccompanied barracks dormitories. Service Component and installation Commanders will determine registration requirements, if any.
16. **THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF POFs MAY BE LAWFULLY IMPORTED AND REGISTERED IN JAPAN BY U.S. FORCES PERSONNEL:**
 - a. Hunting and sporting rifles including .22 caliber rifles. However, .22 caliber rifles are prohibited for hunting. The minimum bore size for hunting in Japan is .23 caliber.
 - b. Defined as a gun customarily used for hunting or sporting, including military type rifles that have been converted permanently.
 - c. Hunting and sporting rifles (including shotguns) must meet the following restrictions:
 - i. Not capable of automatic, successive firing such as machine guns. The magazine shall be such that it can load no more than 5 rounds of ammunition or metal bullets. Shotguns may not have a load capacity greater than 3 rounds.
 - ii. The caliber of a rifle bore cannot exceed 0.41 inches (10.5 millimeters).
 - iii. Shotgun bores cannot be larger than 12 gauge i.e. 8 and 10 gauge shotguns are prohibited.

- iv. The length of the rifle or shot gun must exceed 37 inches (93.9 centimeters).
 - v. The length of the barrel must exceed 19.25 inches (48.8 centimeters).
 - vi. Not equipped with a silencing device or silencing equipment to produce silencing effect.
 - vii. Not having such serious defects in the firing mechanism or barrel as would create apprehension that a hazard exists.
 - viii. 410 caliber shotguns that the Japanese government does not consider technically capable of firing a rifle round.
- d. Firearms designed primarily for target, skeet or trap shooting must be of the types listed above and restrictions stated above apply.
17. AIR GUNS BB GUNS PAINTBALL GUNS PAINTBALL MARKERS (to include Okinawa):
- a. Shipment of air guns, also called pellet or BB guns, that propel metallic projectiles are not authorized in any personal property shipments (household goods or unaccompanied baggage). Per USFJ 31-207, para 3.1., air guns (including those in which compressed gas is used) equipped with a mechanism for shooting metallic bullets are considered firearms under Japanese law. Paintball markers or paintball guns with a maximum velocity UP TO 300 Feet Per Second (fps) may be shipped in any personal property shipments (HHG and UB). All DoD installations in Japan do not prohibit shipment, storage, and use of paintball guns markers for use at MWR facilities that accommodate paintball tournaments and or activities. Per USFJ 31-207, para 6.8., paintball markers (guns) are authorized IAW Service Component and installation Commanders guidance. Paintball guns markers will only be used during official paintball functions (i.e.-Outdoor Recreation sponsored programs events, official paintball competitions, etc.). All rules, regulations, guidance and instructions will be adhered to. Per USFJ 31-207, para 6.8.2., any individual who owns a paintball gun marker that closely resembles an actual firearm ***MUST*** make arrangements with the Outdoor Recreation section to store the paintball gun marker. If arrangements are not made and the paintball gun marker is discovered, the paintball gun marker will be accounted for, controlled, and stored by military authorities IAW appropriate Service regulations until such individuals depart Japan or until the paintball gun marker is destroyed. CO2 cartridges are considered a Hazardous Material, and cannot be included in the HHG UB shipment imported into or exported out of Japan.
 - b. NOTE: Violators may be severely fined or imprisoned by Japanese authorities, depending on the offense.

PETS/QUARANTINE:

A. SHIPPING PETS

1. The shipment of pets as excess baggage accompanying the member in PCS travel may be accomplished by requesting category "B" travel.
2. Advance(90-120 days) reservations are required for pets and should be requested at the same time PCS port call is being requested. There is no entitlement for shipment of pets at Government expense. Pet owners are responsible for making all travel arrangements, complying with shipping requirements, and all associated costs.

B. JAPANESE REGULATIONS

1. Japanese Animal Quarantine Service Regulations require all animals entering Japan be examined to determine if they are free from communicable diseases.
2. Animals found to be free from communicable diseases and meeting entrance requirements may be released to the owner's custody, subject to the restrictions discussed below.
 - a. As of 6 June 2005, the Government of Japan (GOJ) began enforcing a new quarantine program for import and export of animals and pets.
 - i. Active duty military members, members of the civilian component and their respective dependents enter Japan under the US-Japan Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA). The SOFA sets forth rights and responsibilities applicable to US Forces individuals who enter Japan.
 - ii. 2) US Forces, Japan (USFJ) negotiated with the Government of Japan to resolve how this new pet quarantine program will affect SOFA status personnel. This document provides guidelines and recommendations for SOFA status personnel assigned to Japan who will be transporting personal pets into and out of Japan.
 - b. There will be some differences between how the new Japanese pet quarantine program will be applied to SOFA status members and how it will apply to others. Due to these differences, the information on the new pet quarantine program published by the GOJ, the US State Department, the USDA, and the USFJ may differ.
 - i. To minimize any inconvenience which might otherwise be experienced, we recommend following the guidelines listed below.
 - ii. -2) DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT THE INSTALLATION VETERINARIANS IN JAPAN IF NECESSARY. All contact information may be found on the Japan District Veterinary Command website: (http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet_index.htm).

C. LENGTH OF QUARANTINE

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) quarantine inspectors and US Army Veterinary Command veterinarians will determine the length of each pet's quarantine period when the pet arrives in Japan. The quarantine periods will range up to 180 days.

D. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The USFJ Veterinarian offers the following recommendations to assist SOFA status personnel in the movement of their pet to Japan. Each item listed below is important and must be accomplished AS SOON AS THE MILITARY MEMBER IS AWARE OF

MOVEMENT TO JAPAN. This will ease the transition and acceptance of the pet into Japan.

- a. Microchipping: Before completing any of the following requirements, PLEASE MICROCHIP YOUR PET FIRST. Any vaccinations or testing prior to microchipping will be considered invalid. All animals must obtain a microchip before arriving in Japan. ISO or ISO-compatible chips that meet the ISO 11784 and 11785 Standard are recommended. HomeAgain and AVID microchips are acceptable. The identification number of the microchip must be annotated on the Rabies Certificate, the Health Certificate, and on the rabies serology (FAVN) test results sheet.
- b. Vaccinations: SOFA status personnel bringing a dog or cat into Japan should be prepared to present documentary evidence that their pet has had at least two rabies vaccinations since being microchipped.
 - i. The most recent vaccination must have been given not less than 30 days and not later than 12 months prior to arrival.
 - ii. The most recent rabies vaccination form (DD 2208, Rabies Vaccination Certificate) will be required and requires annotation of the microchip number.
 - iii. Complete information for the past two rabies vaccinations will be annotated on the health certificate (MDJ OP 2209, Veterinary Health Certificate for Import Export for Japan).
 - iv. The first rabies vaccine may be given at the same time as the microchip. The second rabies vaccine booster should be given at least 30 days or more after the first rabies immunization.
- c. Fluorescent Antibody Viral Neutralization (FAVN) Test:
 - i. This blood test needs to be performed after the second rabies vaccination and is good for up to 2 years.
 - ii. For PUPPIES & KITTENS (< 12 months): blood should be drawn >30 days after the second rabies vaccination.
 - iii. For ADULT DOGS & CATS (>12 months with a history of rabies vaccinations): blood can be drawn within 2 days or later of the second rabies immunization.
 - iv. A FAVN test result which indicates an antibody level greater than or equal to 0.5 IU ml is acceptable. The microchip number needs to be annotated on the FAVN test result form. The FAVN blood test can be ordered through Kansas State University Rabies Laboratory or DOD Veterinary Food Analysis and Diagnostic Laboratory, Fort Sam Houston, TX.
- d. Advance Notification:
 - i. Kadena AB, Yokota AB, and Misawa AB currently have capabilities for handling AMC arrivals of dogs and cats so the ADVANCE NOTIFICATION IS NOT NEEDED IF THE ANIMAL ARRIVES AT A MILITARY INSTALLATION.
 - ii. If the animal is traveling by commercial air, the GOJ requires an advance notification of pet movement as soon as transportation is scheduled for SOFA members. A notification approval will be returned and is used when checking the animal in with the airline. Therefore, in order to avoid problems at check-in with the airline, this prior notification approval form is VERY IMPORTANT. Please annotate in the "Remarks" box the following statement: "This pet

belongs to a US SOFA sponsored family and will be assigned to (list installation)." The advance notification form is found on the JDVC website: http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet_r_doc.aspx. The advance notification form is required to be sent by mail or by FAX to the port of entry. Addresses and FAX numbers for the respective port of entry may be found at this website (Narita arrivals should fax to Terminal 1): <http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/contactus.html>. All incoming animals must enter Japan through officially designated ports:

- Seaports: Keihin, Nagoya, Osaka, Kobe, Kanmon, and Naha.
- Airports: New Tokyo (Narita), Tokyo (Haneda), Nagoya, Osaka (Kansai), Fukuoka, Kagoshima, and Naha (Okinawa).
- Military AMC ports: Kadena AB, Yokota AB, and Misawa AB.

e. Health Certificate:

- i. An individual health certificate is required for each animal that is moved into or out of Japan. The military health certificate is valid for 10 days and must be completed within 10 days before arrival. Please note the traveler will lose one day during travel to Japan from the US.
- ii. The MDJ OP Form 2209 (Veterinary Health Certificate for Import Export for Japan) may be used by military veterinarians. The MDJ OP Form 2209 may be found on the Japan District Veterinary Command homepage: http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet_r_doc.aspx

f. USDA Certification:

- i. If a health certificate is issued by a licensed civilian veterinarian, the health certificate and rabies certificate must be certified by a USDA State Veterinarian and bear the USDA raised embossed seal. These health certificates are valid up to 30 days before arrival.
- ii. Health certificates issued by a military veterinary treatment facility using the MDJ OP Form 2209 do not require the USDA certification.
- iii. Airlines require a health certificate that is within 10 days of arrival. Therefore if the USDA certified health certificate isn't dated within 10 days of arrival, an additional certificate will be required within 10 days of arrival for the airline.
- iv. The USDA certified certificate will be used upon arrival for processing the pet at Customs.

g. Age Requirement:

- i. Japan discourages the importation of dogs and cats under the age of 12 months. These pets rarely meet the vaccination and FAVN test requirements prior to 11 months.
- ii. Pets under the age of 11 months can be imported but must start out with a 180 day quarantine period. This quarantine period may be reduced if all of the steps above are completed before arrival in Japan. Primary emphasis is placed on microchipping, rabies vaccinations (one at 91 days of age followed by a second one not earlier than 30 days after the first), and the FAVN test (must be drawn not earlier than 30 days after the second rabies vaccination).

- iii. For animals over the age of 12 months, with a history of vaccination, the primary difference is the FAVN test may be performed any time after the second rabies vaccination.
- h. Official Travel Orders (2 copies): Pet owners must submit Official Travel Orders upon arrival at the Animal Quarantine Service in the airport Customs area to verify SOFA status.
- i. MDJ Form 270 (Pet Quarantine and Examination Certificate; 2 copies):
 - i. All SOFA status personnel entering Japan with a pet must complete a MDJ 270. The MDJ 270 allows your pet to be released to you for transportation to your US Military Quarantine Facility. The form may be downloaded from the JDVC website and should be completed prior to arrival in Japan.
 - ii. You must submit the form to the Animal Quarantine Officer upon arrival, then to your US Military Veterinary Treatment Facility within 72 hours after entry into Japan to continue and complete the quarantine process.
- j. USFJ Form 380 EJ (Customs Free Import or Export of Cargo or Customs Declaration of Personal Property):
 - i. This form is required when your pet(s) enters Japan unaccompanied as cargo or on a different flight as the sponsor. You do not need this form if you are accompanying the animal as baggage.
 - ii. You can only use this form within 6 months of being assigned to Japan. After 6 months, you can still use the form, but you may be required to pay any Customs duties associated with bringing a pet into the country. You may obtain the form by having your sponsor take a copy of your orders to the transportation office at your gaining command. The base transportation officer will sign the appropriate box after verifying your orders.
- k. Pet owners or their authorized representatives should be prepared to provide the following information to the Animal Quarantine Officer:
 - i. Military mailing address
 - ii. Duty phone number (Ask your sponsor for a duty number)
 - iii. Command information

NOTE: Placing the above certificates in a zip lock plastic bag and taping it securely to the top of the pet's cage seems to work best. These forms must accompany the animal during transit. Ensure these forms are completely filled out. It is suggested that you carry in your possession the originals of each certificate. When clearing customs, all supporting documentation, including the animal's health record, must be available for referencing in case questions arise concerning the health and or identity of the animal and validity of the records.

E. QUARANTINE PERIOD:

1. The quarantine period is primarily determined by the date the blood for the FAVN test was collected. This is only valid if the microchip was received prior to the two rabies vaccinations and the rabies immunizations were received prior to the blood being drawn for the FAVN test. The FAVN test result level must be equal to or greater than 0.5 IU ml. Equation used: (180 days) minus (# days since blood drawn for an acceptable FAVN test at the date of arrival) = # of quarantine days assigned.

2. The earlier the pet meets the microchip, two vaccinations, and FAVN test standards, the shorter the assigned quarantine period (up to 180 days).
 - a. Those pets arriving with a FAVN test equal to or greater than 180 days and <2 years will be released directly into the custody of the owners without a quarantine time period assessed.
 - b. When the animal is taken to the Military Veterinary Treatment Facility within 72 hours after arrival, the MDJ Form 270 will be completed by the Military Veterinarian and the quarantine process is complete.
3. Quarantine length is also assessed by the sequential order and completion of all previous steps, the accuracy and the completion of all paperwork, pet identification and documentation, including Health Certificates, Rabies Certificates, USDA certification (if required), and Advance Notification Approval.
 - a. Any fault or deviation found in any of these areas will result in an AUTOMATIC 180 DAY QUARANTINE PERIOD.
 - b. Military Veterinarians may be able to reassess and correct quarantine periods associated with some paperwork mistakes.
4. Home Quarantine:
 - a. SOFA status personnel are authorized to quarantine their animals in on-base housing only.
 - b. Those pets assessed quarantine time, can complete it in the owners home on base.
5. Kennel Quarantine:
 - a. Pets not meeting the entry requirements or SOFA status personnel that are required to live in off-base housing must quarantine their animal(s) at the owner's expense in a quarantine facility.
 - b. 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 must be completed at a designated Japanese Animal Quarantine Station at the arrival airport. See website: <http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/contactus.html>
6. -----SPECIAL NOTE:-----
 - a. The practice of allowing pets to remain in the custody of their owners during the assigned "home quarantine" period is a privilege and not an obligation on the part of Japanese authorities. Therefore, it is imperative U.S. Forces pet owners cooperate and fully comply with Japanese Quarantine Laws and military regulations pertaining to the requirements for examining or otherwise processing animals for entry into or exit from Japan.
 - b. Failure to present the animal to a Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) for the final physical examination is a serious violation of Japanese law and may result in a fine or other punishment.
 - c. Failure to comply with the requirements for final physical examination will result in a report of the incident being forwarded to the individual's command.

F. FORMS:

1. All forms and information may be found at the Japan District Veterinary Command webpage: http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet_r_doc.aspx

2. All contact information to include phone, email, and FAX information is also found at the JDVC website. A pet processing checklist is also available to assist clients and veterinarians in completing all requirements in a timely manner. Any questions may be forwarded to the respective Branch Chief or to Commander, JDVC.

G. QUARANTINE FACILITIES:

1. The pet owner is responsible for all expenses associated with all quarantine procedures, to include the transportation procurement actions to and from any quarantine inspection facilities of the Japanese Animal Quarantine Service or of the U.S. Armed Forces. CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS FOR MILITARY QUARANTINE FACILITIES AREA RESPONSIBLE QUARANTINE FACILITY TEL. NO. (DSN) COST PER DAY (\$)
 - Yokosuka NB (Boarding Kennel) 243-4530 Cat--12.50/Dog--12.50-18.50
 - Atsugi Kamiseya Housing Area (Boarding) 265-8389 Cat-10.00/Dog-15.00
 - Camp Zama (Boarding Kennel) 263-5915 Cat-10.00/Dog-15.00
 - Iwakuni MCAS (VTF) 253-3588 Cat-10.00/Dog-15.00
 - Misawa AFB (PAWS) 222-7002 Cat-10.00/Dog-10.00
 - Misawa Dr. Yoshida Commercial-0176-57-3423 Cat-10.00/Dog-10.00
 - Sasebo NB (Boarding Kennel) 252-2905 Cat-10.00-15.00/Dog-15.00-25.00
 - Yokota AFB (Boarding Kennel) 225-8906 Cat-10.00/Dog-12.00
 - Okinawa Kadena AB (Boarding Kennel) 632-4062 Cat-7.50/Dog-10.00
2. Additional Charges may apply.
 - a. These prices are current as of 1 Jan 2005.
 - b. Some facilities offer group rates and extended boarding discounts. All prices are subject to change. Please contact the facility for these discounts and applied rates.

H. PET QUARANTINE REIMBURSEMENT

1. Service members:
 - a. Reimbursement for actual mandatory household pet quarantine fees is authorized not to exceed \$550 per PCS move. (Ref. JFTR, par. U5805.)
 - b. Transportation cost, medical care, grooming, and similar fees for services that are part of routine pet care associated with a PCS are not reimbursable. Similarly, boarding costs incurred after the final release dates from quarantine are not reimbursable.

EXAMPLE: If on the day the attending veterinarian certifies the pet has completed the quarantine period and the service member cannot take possession of the pet for any reason (i.e., the service member is TDY or pets are not allowed in billeting), the reimbursable amount is set on that date. All subsequent boarding cost(s) are not reimbursable.
 - c. Documents recommended to submit to finance include:
 - i. Boarding receipt for mandatory quarantine dates
 - ii. MDJ Form 270 with entry date and final release date from quarantine
2. DOD civilian employees
 - a. Pet quarantine fees and transportation charges incurred in connection with a PCS are included in the Miscellaneous Expense Allowance (MEA) applicable fixed amount (Ref. JTR, par. C5310-D). If MEA expenses are itemized, reimbursement for those

expenses, including pet quarantine fees and transportation charges, is allowed up to the applicable maximum amount (\$650 to \$1,300) authorized in JTR, par. C5310-B.

b. Documents recommended to submit to finance include:

- i. Boarding receipt for mandatory quarantine dates
- ii. Copy of MDJ Form 270 with entry date and final release date from quarantine

I. UPON ARRIVAL AT SPONSOR'S ASSIGNED DUTY STATION:

1. Pet owners must contact the US Army Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) located at the installation (see below) within 72 hours of arrival. The final examination must be conducted within 72 hours from the end of the quarantine period.
2. The pet owner is responsible for transporting the animal to and from the VTF and for any expenses incurred.
3. LOCATION OF U.S. FORCES VETERINARY TREATMENT FACILITIES, (VTF) AREA RESPONSIBLE VETERINARY TREATMENT FACILITY (VTF) DSN TEL. NO.
 - Yokosuka VTF 242-6820
 - Atsugi and Camp Zama Zama VTF 263-3875
 - Iwakuni VTF 253-4622
 - Misawa VTF 226-4502
 - Sasebo VTF 252-3449
 - Yokota VTF 225-2143
 - Okinawa Kadena VTF (no DSN available) 011-81-98-959-1300 (option 1)

J. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. OVERVIEW - The Japan District Veterinary Command provides medical care for pets of authorized personnel throughout Japan. The primary missions of the respective Veterinary Units in Japan are food safety and quality assurance, public health concerns, veterinary care for military working dogs and privately owned pets.
2. AUTHORIZATION FOR SERVICES - Veterinary services are authorized for animals owned by persons with DOD medical care privileges. A valid SOFA-status identification card is required before services are rendered. Regulations also mandate that all pets are currently microchipped and vaccinated annually against rabies before services are rendered. This policy will be enforced.
3. DISCLAIMER:
 - a. The Japan District Veterinary Command is authorized to provide care to your privately owned pet(s) as time, space, and personnel resources permit.
 - b. Care for privately owned animals is just one of many missions performed; therefore, there is no guarantee veterinary services will always be available.
 - c. YOU must be prepared to seek veterinary care from local civilian veterinarians if necessary. You may obtain a written list of local veterinary clinics from the VTF. We recommend you obtain this list and become familiar with clinics in your area before the need arises. For more information, please web site: (<http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet>).

PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES (POVs):

- A. POV shipments are subject to embargo or waiver requirements.
- Effective 1 April 1996, the Assistant Secretary for Defense (for Management Policy) has granted limited case-by-case, waiver authority to Commander USFJ for shipment of post 1976 type vehicles to Mainland Japan only.
 - Okinawa continues to be under an embargo status and is not included under this waiver authority except for Category C POVs (see below).
 - The waiver authority for Mainland Japan has been further delegated by USFJ to Component Commanders. SEE paragraph e. below for authorized Component Commanders.
 - When requesting a waiver the following information should be included: make year model of vehicle, vehicle identification number (VIN), if equipped with California emission.
 - All DoD military members employees must obtain prior approval from their respective service authority in Japan named in para 8e. All imported motor vehicles must be registered by the Government of Japan.
1. All DoD service members must be counseled on the following items:
 - a. The high cost of initial registration of their POV in Japan (\$3000 to \$5000 dollars per vehicle based on 100 Yen to \$1.00 US dollar)
 - b. Availability of parts and qualified maintenance
 - c. Emissions testing (\$3,000 to \$5,000).
 2. POVs shipped to Japan are either category A, B or C:
 - a. **Category A** are POVs manufactured prior to 31 March 1976. Category A POVs will have to meet the insurance, taxes, registration fees and local vehicle emission standards and safety requirements (headlights, color of bulbs, MPH to KPH speedometer, etc.). This category will not require a waiver. Category A POVs may be shipped to Mainland Japan or Okinawa, Japan as appropriate. Estimated cost per vehicle is between \$500 to \$1000 based on 100 Yen to \$1.00 US dollar.
 - b. **Category B** are POVs manufactured after 31 March 1976. Category B POVs will have to pass the Japanese Vehicle Emission Standards (JVES), plus the above-mentioned items (insurance, tax, and registration requirements). This category will require a waiver (component services) and is authorized for shipment to Mainland Japan ONLY! Estimated cost per vehicle is between \$3000 to \$5000 based on 100 Yen to \$1.00 US dollar.
 - c. **Category C** are Japan-spec POVs previously registered and exported from mainland Japan and or Okinawa. Category C POVs require a shipment waiver from service component representatives acknowledging all associated costs will be at the shipper's expense. Copy of the original car title or Japan export title will be presented to TMO during counseling and to the origin VPC. Per confirmation from the National Agency, Vehicle Inspections Office, Okinawa, emissions testing is not required for stock vehicles and can be registered in mainland and or Okinawa, Japan. In order to ensure current emissions and safety standards are met, all

modified Japan-spec POVs will be shipped to mainland Japan to undergo emissions, safety, and noise testing. All additional costs plus the subsequent delivery to Okinawa will be at member's or DoD employee's expense. Origin VPC's must ensure not to ship any modified Japan-spec POVs directly to Okinawa to include POVs purchased from a Japan Export Company. Any changes that affects safety and the manufacturer's original factory intake, exhaust, tuning and suspension are considered car modification.

- d. Due to the remote locations and size of the installations of CDR Fleet Activities Sasebo NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center Yokosuka Site Sasebo (QENF), MCAS Iwakuni (QEML) and Misawa AB (QEFL), there are no on-base facilities authorized to modify or inspect vehicles to meet Japan emission and safety standards. The estimated cost per vehicle may be \$2,000 to \$5,000 based on 100 Yen to \$1.00 US dollar regardless of vehicle category A or B.
 - e. Oversized vehicles (i.e.-special purpose vehicles, campers, motor homes, recreational vehicles, etc.) exceeding 12 meters in length, 2.5 meters in width, and or 3.8 meters in height will not comply with Japanese registration standards. Modifications, including installed camper shells, cannot protrude more than 15cm from each side of the vehicle. Total vehicle weight cannot exceed 20 tons: axle weight-10 tons; and wheel weight-5 tons.
 - f. Members should contact their sponsors and or transportation offices concerning the current cost of owning and operating POVs in Japan.
3. Diesel passenger vehicles shipped to the Kanto plain: "Government of Japan vehicle regulations concerning some diesel-powered vehicles are in effect in the Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka metropolitan regions. U.S. Forces must abide by these regulations. The Tokyo region includes CFAY Yokosuka (QENQ), NAF Atsugi (QENL), Yokota AB (QFFL) and Camp Zama (QFAC). The new regulations are designed to reduce pollution in these heavy-traffic areas. Owners of older model diesel vehicles must determine if this law applies to their POV prior to shipping to an affected area. If they are shipping intra-Japan, they can check with their local Land Transportation Office (LTO). The newcomer can also request that his/her sponsor check with the local LTO. Members moving to the affected areas should consider these regulations when purchasing older model diesel vehicles. Information on vehicle registration can be obtained from local (Japan) installation vehicle registration offices." (CH)
- B. MOTORCYCLES MOPEDS:
1. Motorcycles Mopeds over 250cc, manufactured 1 July 1999 or later, must comply with Government Of Japan (GOJ)-imposed brake standards. In addition to the brake standard requirement, motorcycles mopeds over 250cc, manufactured 1 April 2001 or later, must pass GOJ emissions testing and meet engine-exhaust emission control standards.
 2. The estimated minimum costs for mandatory engine exhaust emission testing is approximately \$800. Costs to bring a noncompliant motorcycle to standards depends on type model. If a motorcycle does not meet brake standards, costs to bring the motorcycle into compliance could run \$2000-\$4000. (Brake testing costs depend on type model). These are separate requirements (subject to manufactured dates). Failure to meet compliance places the owner in an even costlier situation. The additional cost of

meeting GOJ's standards is subject to the various equipment types and models and degree of difficulty in meeting compliance. There is only one brake testing facility in Tokyo; two emission testing facilities located in Tokyo and one in Osaka. There is no brake or emissions testing facilities on Okinawa. Furthermore, there is no brake or emissions testing facilities near Misawa, Sasebo, or Iwakuni (mainland Japan).

3. The following paragraphs outline current DoD policy on importing motorcycles mopeds over 250cc:
 - a. Manufactured prior to 1 Jul 99: No import restrictions.
 - b. Manufactured 1 Jul 99 to 31 Mar 01: The motorcycle must meet brake standards. No import restrictions to mainland Japan, however, member should have a manufacturer's certificate stating the motorcycle meets Japanese brake standards. Members assigned to military installations outside the Kanto Plain (Tokyo area) will face high costs and extreme inconvenience transporting the motorcycle to a brake testing facility, if testing is required. Members assigned to Okinawa do not have a brake testing facility on the island. The motorcycle owner, whether assigned to mainland Japan or Okinawa, should contact the motorcycle manufacturer and obtain a certificate that specifically states the vehicle meets Japanese brake standards. If the member has any doubt about meeting the brake standard, he she may send the manufacturer's brake certificate to the sponsor in Japan and ask him her to check with the local Land Transportation Office (LTO). The sponsor can then advise the member (before shipment) if the motorcycle meets standards. Ensuring the brakes meet Japanese standards prior to shipment is critical, especially for Okinawa, as there are no brake testing facilities on the island.
 - c. Manufactured 1 Apr 01 or later: Both brake and engine exhaust emission standards must be met. Members assigned to military installations outside the Kanto Plain (Tokyo area) will face high costs and extreme inconvenience transporting the motorcycle to an engine exhaust testing facility, and to a brake testing facility (if required). Members must sign a memo (prepared by origin TMO ITO) acknowledging costs inconvenience if the member chooses to ship to mainland Japan. A copy of this memo will be included in advance shipping documents sent to the destination TMO ITO. Motorcycles are prohibited from importation to Okinawa due to the lack of brake and emission testing facilities.
4. Motorcycles mopeds must be insured with a temporary registration tag in order to be driven to a testing facility.
5. It is critical that counselors brief members of the extremely high GOJ compliance costs when shipping motorcycles mopeds into Japan. Counselors should advise members, as an alternative, to place their motorcycles mopeds into nontemporary storage as household goods for the duration of their tour in order to avoid compliance expenses. Service members may also use their POV storage entitlement (if a POV is not shipped) to store their motorcycle as a POV in the POV storage program where it will receive proper care.
6. IAW Japanese Customs requirements, all motorcycles (to include mopeds) shipped as HHGs must be properly inventoried. The make, model, chassis number, and engine size must be noted on the inventory and shipping documents. Motorcycles may also be

shipped as POVs. (NOTE: motorcycles mopeds do not require POV waivers). Motorcycles mopeds shipped as part of HHGs that fall in the above manufactured date category [b.(1)] must still comply with GOJ&'s requirements.

7. Motorcycles shipped as HHGs to Japan: All ITOs TMOs are required to identify the inclusion of a motorcycle with make, model, chassis number, and engine size in block 25 of the PPGBL and as trailer card data on applicable TCMDs. Personal property TSPs must show the same information on the inventory.
8. Diplomatic Personnel: Department of Defense personnel on diplomatic assignment to the U.S. Embassy, Tokyo must contact their sponsor or the Transportation Section of the Embassy for specific guidelines regarding shipping a motorcycle.

C. GASOLINE CATALYTIC CONVERTERS:

1. Gasoline purchased on military installations is 89 octane. Off-installation gasoline is minimum 89 octane. Prices off base start at approximately \$4.00 per gallon for 89 octane. Higher grade gasoline off base is more expensive.
2. Members should be counseled on extremely stringent emission standards imposed.

D. INSURANCE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Effective 01 Jan 1997, each POV shall have insurance required by the Japanese Motor Vehicle Damage Compensation Guaranty Law.
2. POV owners must secure and maintain supplemental coverage of no less than 30,000,000 Yen or \$300,000 for bodily injury, and 3,000,000 Yen or \$30,000 for property damage.
3. Military and family members, and civilians assigned to US Navy commands, shall not operate private or rental vehicles unless the proper insurance provisions have been met.

E. WAIVERS:

1. All DOD military members employees must obtain prior approval from their respective service authority in Japan as indicated below for shipment of POVs.
2. The following is the Navy POCs for POV Waivers: Commander, Fleet Logistics Center Yokosuka, ATTN: Code 440, PSC 473 BOX 11, FPO AP 96349. Phone: DSN: 315-243-6311, DSN FAX: 315-243-7011, Email: hhg.yokosuka@fe.navy.mil

Note: Diplomatic personnel: All DOD military members ordered to Japan under diplomatic assignment are exempt from the 01 April 1996, Assistant SECDEF case-by-case waiver authority identified herein. DOD military members may ship POVs in accordance with guidelines established by appropriate authority at the U.S.Embassy to which they have been assigned.

F. POV Consignment and Ports:

1. Misawa AB (QEFL): If shipment of POV is authorized to Misawa AB, consign the POV shipment to 836th Transportation BN, Yokohama, JA (UM1), for transshipment to Hachinohe, JA (UH2), which is 20 miles from Misawa AB via highway. Four snow tires are required during 1 Dec through 31 Mar. Actual arrival date of the service member to Misawa should be annotated on DD Form 788 due to non-secure storage areas at the Hachinohe fuel terminal.
2. NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka Site Sasebo (QENF): Consign POVs to 836th Transportation BN, Yokohama, JA (UM1), for transshipment to Sasebo, JA (UQ2), via the Hakata Port, JA (UQ5). POVs shipped to Sasebo, JA, by US Forces personnel must be cleared by

Japanese Customs at the port of discharge. Members should be counseled on extremely stringent emission standards imposed.

BOATS:

- A. Sailboats, motorboats, jet skis and wave runners may be imported to Japan duty-free subject to the following provisions:
 - 1. Boats must be included in personal property shipments and imported within 6 months of sponsors' arrival in Japan. Japan law states boats are not assessed customs duty, therefore, USFJ Form 380 EJ is not required.
 - 2. Sponsor must declare boat as unaccompanied personal property at the time of his/her entry in Japan and possess evidence of ownership (title registration papers) and date of purchase.
 - 3. If an imported boat is subsequently sold/transferred to non-SOFA personnel (enterpriser or business), consumption tax of 5 percent of the boat's value may be charged by the Government of Japan.
- B. All members should be counseled on the following:
 - 1. Insurance costs average \$1,000 to \$2,000 annually, depending on coverage.
 - 2. Any individual operating a boat with a motor must obtain a Japan Class 2 boating license (Certificate of Competency for Small Vessel Operator). The license cost is approximately \$400, and the test is only given in English twice each year. A Personal Watercraft (PWC) requires an additional license. Both licenses involve a written and practical examination.
 - 3. Parking is very limited at the marina, as well as in off-base housing areas. Ball type hitches are very rare and should be shipped in with the watercraft, or trailers must be converted for a pintle hook connection. A towing license is required to tow any trailer in Japan. An ordinary SOFA license is not sufficient.
 - 4. Slips at Japanese marinas are very expensive. A typical slip on Tokyo Bay for a 30-foot boat will cost at least \$23,000 for the first year and \$10,000 each additional year (Yokohama Bayside Marina).
- C. For Okinawa: Members requesting shipment of boats should be counseled on the following:
 - 1. Considering all the expenses involved and limited weight entitlement, importation of boats to Okinawa is discouraged.
 - 2. It is difficult and expensive to obtain a boat license. There are only two boat licensing classes per year costing approximately \$300.
 - 3. Boat registration fee is approximately \$80 per year.

SEPARATEES/RETIREE ENTITLEMENTS/LIMITATIONS:

Separatees and retirees do not fall under the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) and are not entitled to the exemptions of personnel whose status in Japan stems from this agreement. Personnel contemplating retirement, separation or relocating dependents to Japan should be counseled that all customs entry requirements, to include payment of duties, taxes, customs

inspection fees, etc. remain the responsibility of the member and is a personal matter between the member and the Government of Japan.

In April 2013 applicable duties, taxes and customs inspection fees destined for Okinawa totaled approximately 2,000USD for a 500-pound shipment of HHG. Please ensure customers are counseled of potential costs accordingly.

JAPAN NATIONAL HOLIDAYS:

Japanese Customs offices close 29 Dec through 03 Jan. Also, many commercial companies including transportation and port operations close between 29 Apr through 05 May for golden week. RDDs should not be assigned later than 28 Dec or earlier than 05 Jan or between 29 Apr through 05 May. For planning purposes when scheduling RDDs, Japanese National Holidays are:

01 Jan	New Years Day
2nd Monday of Jan	Adulthood Day
11 Feb	National Foundation Day
21 Mar	Vernal Equinox Day
29 Apr	Showa-No-Hi (Ex Emperors Birthday)
03 May	Constitution Day
04 May	Midori-No-Hi (Green Day)
05 May	Childrens Day
3rd Monday of July	Ocean Day
11 Aug	Mountain Day
3rd Monday of Sep	Respect for the Aged Day
23 Sep	Autumn Equinox Day
2nd Monday of Oct	Health-Athletics Day
03 Nov	Culture Day
23 Nov	Labor-Thanksgiving Day
23 Dec	Emperors Birthday