



## MEMORANDUM FOR RETIREES

August 7, 2014

FROM: Misawa Military Retirees Association

SUBJECT: Minutes MMRA

1. The bi-monthly meeting of the Misawa Military Retirees Association (MMRA) was held on 5 August 2014 at 1700 hours in the Club Tohoku.
2. The president of the MMRA, Paul Sayles, read the minutes of the 10 June 2014 meeting, which were approved by the attending members
3. OLD BUSINESS:
  - a. New Phone system -Questions still remain regarding the new non-government phone system currently being installed by Allied Telesis. Joe Roginski said that Bill Watt, who works for Allied Telesis, sent a copy of the new phone tree, but stated it is a work in progress. Some organizations have change to new numbers and published them. Others have not yet done so and the old numbers still work. This item will remain open until the conversion process is complete. For those who have an account at Navy Federal Credit Union, here is the direct dial number to the Misawa Branch: 1-617-938-5097. (OPEN)
  - b. The Affordable Healthcare Act (ACA) and its affect on TRICARE and overseas retirees is still and open item because, although it does not affect TRICARE now, there is always a possibility of change. (OPEN).
  - c. MICARE –Feedback on this program has been good, and it seems to be working well for most who use it. Since there are still retirees to be registered, and there are additional features being added, this item will remain open. Cecil Hahn asked about who is the new provider for retirees. Paul Sayles said that there are two new internal medicine physicians just arriving but they have not yet been assigned as providers. Paul said that if you have to make an appointment, ask for a provider in “internal medicine.” Paul also said that Captain Zane Holland is going to be the “guru” for MICARE, and he will give us Capt Holland’s phone number when he is ready. (OPEN)
  - d. Disposal of Doug Lyon’s Ashes – Steve Day said he would inquire to set up another date for the delivery of the ashes and the eventual ceremony. (OPEN)
- 4.. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. Dave Barton announced that he met with the Exchange manager and has coordinated this year’s Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) with the Exchange’s ‘Still Serving’ celebration. The “Still Serving” will run from 3-10 October and the RAD will be on Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. The format will be the same as past RADs-the breakfast at the club and the activities in the Exchange foyer from 10am to 12 noon. Letters have gone out to all venders and already funds and support pledges are in. Paul Sayles added the Medical Group will participate again this year with health checks and immunizations. A member reminded the participants to make sure that a group photo of RAD attendees be taken. Paul Sayles said that this will be done at the breakfast part of the event. (OPEN)
  - b. Ray Torp noted that the VA Representative would be in Misawa October 14<sup>th</sup>, and that the rep is now in Misawa from 5 to 8 August. (Closed)

- c. Bill Bunch noted that the 'bill pay' function on your Navy Federal Checking Account, if you have a Japanese and/or phone number has been fixed but you must provide a stateside phone number for it to work. A member noted that if you don't have a stateside number, you can get the "Magic Jack" calling device which will automatically give you a stateside number. (Closed)
  - d. Joe Roginski announced that the RAO gave Dr. Tia and Col Dana plaques in appreciation for their support of Misawa retirees and their families. The cost of the plaques was \$55 each. Joe said that the RAO has the plaque for Col Dana covered, but asked that the MMRA cover the cost of the plaque for Dr Tia. Joe accepted individual donations to cover the plaque for Col Dana. Paul Sayles moved that the MMRA vote \$55 to cover Dr Tia's plaque. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership in attendance. (Closed)
  - e. MMRA fundraisers – Joe Roginski and Dave Barton reported the following: In the past, we have 'rented out' our fundraising slot for base events, by allowing other organizations or businesses to use our concession and the MMRA received a percentage of the profits as our fundraising activity. Recently a person in security forces asked to use our slot and we signed the paperwork accordingly for this to happen. However, this time, the person in charge of private organizations questioned the process and we found out from the legal office that all profits from a fundraiser must be declared, and that funds raised in an authorized fundraiser are for the community and not personal profit. So we were inadvertently in violation of the private organizations operating instructions. Accordingly, we have stopped doing this and in the future we, the MMRA, will do our own fundraising or not do it at all. It was noted that there are many ways we can raise funds and we will bring this up in the next meeting. (Open)
  - f. Alan Holecek noted that the Exchange is still hiring. The applicant must be a U.S. citizen and be in Japan in a legal status, tourist or work visa, and if hired, regardless of hours (part or full-time) the hiree will be given status under the SOFA. He advised that the applicant should apply on-line, select jobs in Japan and specifically Misawa. (Closed)
  - g. Cecil Hahn asked if the annual Vietnam Veterans celebration would be continued at Misawa and Dave Barton said he would check on it. (Open)
3. Paul Sayles introduced TSgt Kathleen Cruz from the Medical Group who gave an informative briefing on immunizations. TSgt Cruz noted that 70% of the flu vaccine is in by August, and that first active duty, health care providers, and persons in high risk had priority, then the general public including retirees would receive the vaccine. She added that getting the vaccination at the RAD would be a good way but once the vaccine is open to the public, or to just go to the immunizations clinic at the hospital. She said that the Zoster (shingles) vaccine and the pneumonia vaccine may be available at the RAD. Paul Sayles will follow up on the availability of these vaccines when he finds out for sure.

#### 4.. FINANCIAL REPORT

Dave Barton read the financial report which was accepted and approved by the attending membership.

7. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1800. The president announced that the next meeting will be on 7 October 2014 at 1700 in the Club Tohoku Gray Room.

///Signed///

Joseph Roginski, MSgt (Ret), USAF  
Secretary, MMRA  
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35FW/CVR

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