



MEMORANDUM FOR RETIREES

October 16, 2014

FROM: Misawa Military Retirees Association

SUBJECT: Minutes MMRA

1. The bi-monthly meeting of the Misawa Military Retirees Association (MMRA) was held on 7 October 2014 at 1700 hours in the Club Tohoku.

2. Captain Zane Holland of the Medical Group, who is the program manager and contact person for the MiCare system, gave a MiCare briefing. He announced that Doctors Nguyen and Gibbs would be the providers for retiree families and they were in the process of assigning patients and we would soon be able to use MiCare to work with these physicians. Capt Holland answered several MiCare related questions. Some of the answers were: DEERS and MiCare are integrated. “Gray Area” retirees are eligible to use MiCare. You can access your MiCare account from anywhere in the world if you have access to the Internet. VA patients have access to Military Treatment Facilities (MTF) on a case-by-case basis and access varies according to location and funding. Capt Holland’s phone number is 226-6984.

3. The president of the MMRA, Paul Sayles, read the minutes of the 5 August 2014 meeting, which were approved by the attending members

4. 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. He said there is a directory now for the Exchange and Force support Squadron. A digital phone directory is being developed for publication. (OPEN)

	To DSN	To Home Phone	To Japanese Number	US Stateside
From DSN	No Change	95 + 1 + XXX-XXX-XXXX	99 then #	
From Home Phone	226-XXXX	1 + XXX-XXX-XXXX	011-81-drop the first 0 of the #	1 + XXX-XXX-XXXX
From Japanese Number	0176-77-1110 wait 1 wait 1 wait 226-XXXX	03-4580-0135 wait 1 + XXX-XXX-XXXX	No Change	010 + XXX-XXX-XXXX
From US Stateside	81 0176-77-1110 wait 1 wait 1 wait 226-XXXX	1 + XXX-XXX-XXXX	81 then #	No Change

This is a calling matrix provided by the Communications Squadron.

- b. The Affordable Healthcare Act (ACA) and TRICARE are compatible and TRICARE meets the requirements of

the ACA. This item is closed but can be re-opened if necessary. (CLOSED)

- c. MICARE –Feedback on this program has been good, and it seems to be working well for most who use it. Captain Holland of the Med Group gave a briefing at the beginning of the meeting. The providers for the retirees will be assigned in MiCare shortly. (CLOSED)
- 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)

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. The 2014 Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) went without a hitch and members who attended said it was a success. The RAO will prepare certificates of appreciation to all the organizations and individuals who supported the event. (CLOSED)
- b. MMRA fundraisers – At the August meeting we discussed why we can no longer ‘rent out’ our fund raiser slots. It was noted that there are ways we can raise funds and we will bring this up in the next meeting. Chief Tinnirella suggested that if we do fundraisers, the persons who propose a fund raiser should support it with their physical participation. Joe Roginski suggested that we could do a ‘Flea Market’ for our fund raiser. He said he used to do flea markets in Hachinohe and has all the equipment and would be glad to operate the booth with help and donations of salable items. (OPEN)
- c. Cecil Hahn had asked if the annual Vietnam Veterans celebration would be continued at Misawa and Dave Barton said he would check on it. Dave said that it was a celebration of the 50th anniversary and that no regular celebrations are scheduled. (CLOSED)
- d. Paul Sayles introduced TSgt Kathleen Cruz from the Medical Group who gave an informative briefing on immunizations. There was a question of what vaccines would be available at the RAD and it turned out that only the influenza shot was given at the RAD. (CLOSED)
- e. The Legal Office (Torii Bldg, 656) held a special extended hours service on 9 October from 1700 to 2000 for those who cannot get in during duty hours and this was a trial to get an idea of how much such a service was needed. Captain Obadina of the Legal Office offered a link to his office <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil> and a phone number 226-4022. Forms are available on the link such as a ‘will worksheet’. Captain Obadina had intended to participate in the RAD but could not because of an unexpected situation. The Captain said he was anxious to get involved with the retired community and that possibly other extended hours will be announced. (CLOSED)
- f. Chief Tinnirella moved that up to \$250 be allotted for widows attendance to future RADs for those who must travel a long distance and stay overnight at Misawa to attend. This would give each widow attending \$50 to help cover expenses. The motion was seconded and approved. Joe Roginski had been covering the lodging in past RADs, but he will submit his receipts for re-imbusement for this RAD. (CLOSED)
- g. It was reported that ‘Tony’ Watkins of the RAO staff was in the Red Cross Hospital in Hachinohe and would be in hospital for at least another month. Everyone was invited to visit Tony when they get a chance. (OPEN)
- h. Dave Barton announced that the Force Support Squadron was holding a “Retiree Appreciation Luncheon” on Wednesday, the 12th, the day after Veteran’s Day. This event usually is in conjunction with the Air Force Birthday and held in September. Attendance will be limited so Dave will be working with the FSS dining facility staff to determine the number of attendees (about 15) and who would be attending. Priority is given for those who have never attended this event. The format will be similar to the Air Force Birthday luncheon, in that retirees will be seated with first termers who are in similar career fields. This is a must-do memorable event. (OPEN)

6. 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 2 December 2014 at 1700 in the Club Tohoku Gray Room.

///Signed///

Joseph Roginski, MSgt (Ret), USAF

Secretary, MMRA

Director, Retiree Activities Office

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