



February 13, 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR RETIREES

FROM: Misawa Military Retirees Association

SUBJECT: MMRA Meeting Minutes

1. The bi-monthly meeting of the Misawa Military Retirees Association (MMRA) was held on 7 February 2017 at 1700 hours in the Club Tohoku.

2. Joseph Roginski read the minutes which were approved and accepted by the membership.

3. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Base Decals – Dave Barton briefed the membership on the status of base decals. He said, that while Col Rex would like to see the decals done away with altogether, and all the other bases in Japan agree, the Army at Camp Zama insists in keeping the base decals for autos of persons under the SOFA. He believes that until the leadership at Zama changes, there will be no chance for doing away with the decals in the near future. It was suggested that this item be closed and re-opened when and if there is a change in the situation. Until the policy is changed, all non-SOFA persons must get the annual vehicle pass for base entry. (CLOSED)
- b. Red Feather – Paul Sayles announced that the \$60 collected for the youth center has been donated to the Red Feather Community chest. (CLOSED)

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Paul Sayles announced that the terms for all officers were up and opened nominations for the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer positions. None of the attending members proposed a nomination for any of the positions, and a member moved that the current officers be elected for another term, which was seconded and unanimously approved.. Current leadership remains as: President-Paul Sayles, Vice-President: "T" Tinnirella, Secretary-Joseph Roginski, and Treasurer-Dave Barton. (CLOSED)

b. Last month, Mr. Stuart M. Hatcher, Consul General from the American Embassy in Tokyo, visited Misawa for the first time and on the 20th of January, he met with Misawa retirees for a 45-minute meeting at Wing Headquarters. He thanked the RAO and the MMRA for the recognition of the long service and support of Mr. Morikoshi of the Sapporo Consulate, saying this was most gratifying as Mr. Morikoshi has never been recognized for his service, let alone by a military and private organization. Members discussed how retirees live in Japan and some of the issues they encounter. Most of the issues are out of the control of the Embassy, but one item, the TRICARE On-Line Pharmacy was raised in that retirees who do not have an APO address cannot receive pharmaceuticals from this service because the On-Line Pharmacy will not send medications to foreign addresses. Mr. Hatcher said he will investigate this issue further. (OPEN)

c. Joe Roginski thanked everyone for the donations of toiletry items for homeless veterans. Items will be mailed out on Friday, the 17th. (CLOSED)

d. Dave Barton announced that Emmet Heidemann, PACAF RAO Coordinator announced that the PACAF RAO Conference will be held at Randolph on 15-19 May 2017. The RAO is accepting inputs for the conference up to May 2017, and if you have an issue or a question and want to input to the conference agenda, please do so. The RAO is accepting inputs up to May 2017. (OPEN)

e. Joe Roginski said that some retirees cannot attend the meeting because they work and said that one retiree had asked that the meeting time be changed from 1700 to 1730. The motion was seconded but the vote was against the change, 7 for and 12 against and the motion was not passed. (CLOSED)

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

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

6. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1745. The president announced that the next meeting will be on 4 April 2017 at 1700 in the Club Tohoku Gray Room.

///Signed///

Joseph Roginski, MSgt (Ret), USAF
Secretary, Misawa Military Retirees' Association
Director, Retiree Activities Office
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