



August 4, 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR RETIREES

FROM: Misawa Military Retirees Association

SUBJECT: MMRA Meeting Minutes August 2017

1. The bi-monthly meeting of the Misawa Military Retiree Association (MMRA) was held on 1 August 2017 at 1700 in the Club Tohoku Gray Room.
2. Joe Roginski read the minutes which were approved and accepted by the membership present.
3. OLD Business:
 - a. Paul Sayles announced that the club card conversion has run into some problems and said that you should not yet ditch your old card. The club will be honoring the old card for the near future. However, you should still go to MemberPlanet.com to set up your new club card account. (Open)
 - b. Gate Closures – Paul Sayles announced that there will be construction and upgrading at the various gates and accordingly special gate hours until project is completed. However, due to construction schedule changes, the gate operations schedule announced at the last meeting no longer apply. As more information on the closures becomes available, we will share as best we can. (Open)
 - c. Dave Barton announced that while the base decal problem has been resolved and that he would make sure the new leadership is fully briefed so that we should not encounter the problem again. He also announced that Col Rex's replacement will be Col Paul D. Kirmis, and that the RAO staff will meet with him after his arrival. (Closed)
4. NEW Business:
 - a. Major Kusudia, OIC of the Hospital Pharmacy, gave an excellent briefing about the pharmacy services. He highlighted two of their new programs: their Smoking Cessation Clinic and Cold Clinic Programs. For the Cold Clinic program, just come to the pharmacy, describe your symptoms and they will do a quick triage to either refer you to the UTC, a provider, or their Cold Clinic, which will provide you with a set of over the counter cold medications with a value of \$20 to \$40, concise instructions for treatment and follow-up as needed. In the Smoking Cessation Clinic, they will provide you with the medications and instructions needed for success. The medications and accessories you will receive have a market value of \$200-\$300, so they are very serious about helping you quit, and you will receive assistance and guidance throughout your program. The pharmacy also has a "Bridge Refill" program, so that if you run out of needed medications and can't get a renewal appointment quick enough, they will give you enough to tide you over. Major Kusudia answered questions about the pharmacy and invited anyone to call with questions or concerns. The pharmacy number is 226-6607 and direct dial (0176) 77-6607 is available. (Closed)
 - b. Joe Roginski announced that he was approached by Dr. Kojika, owner of the Misawa Chuo Hospital and Director of the Yasuragi-So Home for the Elderly, and Mr. Kenichi Nakamura of the Special Needs

Home for the Elderly Uruwashi-No-Kai. They both asked if I could talk with our members and see if anyone would be interested in volunteering in any capacity in helping with the elderly community through events and visits. Generally, the membership at the meeting seemed receptive so I will let these two men know and provide more information as communications develop. (Open)

- c. Paul Sayles announced that in the Healthy Living month, Kevin Bosket made available DVDs on healthy living exercise. Paul said they will be available in the RAO. (Closed)
 - d. Retiree Appreciation Day has been moved to 14 October because American Day is on the 6th and 7th. Schedule will be the same as previous RADs, and we have already met with the Exchange manager and have letters out. (Open)
 - e. Dave Barton announced that the POW/MIA Retreat will be in September or October, but not sure if we will be invited to stand. (Open)
 - f. Ray Magby announced that the club card discount will no longer be honored for services, such as autocare and kennel, and the discount will be given only for food items. (Closed)
5. The Financial Report was given by Dave Barton. The report was approved and accepted by the membership present.
6. The meeting was closed at 1730. The next bi-monthly meeting will be at 1700 on 3 October 2017 in the Club Tohoku Gray Room.

JOSEPH ROGINSKI
Secretary, MMRA