

Non-Appropriated Fund
Human Resources
**Statement of Living
and Working Conditions**

April 2023

Table of Contents

Welcome to Japan.....	3
Status of Forces Agreement	3
General Information on Iwakuni.....	4
Traveling Around Iwakuni.....	4-5
Iwakuni Weather	5-6
Natural Disasters and Extreme Weather in Japan	7
Installation Facilities and Available Services	8
Medical Services	8
Dental Services.....	9
Pharmacy Services.....	9
Educational Services	10
Childcare Services.....	10-11
Family Services	11
Mail and Communications.....	12
Money and Banking	12
Shopping and General Services.....	13-15
Grocery Shopping	16
Lodging	16
United Service Organizations (USO)	17
MWR Programs	17-19
Religious Services	19
Privately Owned Vehicles	19-20
Alternative Transportation	21
Housing	21
Pets	21-22
Funeral and Memorial Services	22

日本へようこそ! Welcome to Japan!

Japan is an island nation consisting of five main islands: Hokkaido, Honshu (the main island), Shikoku, Kyushu, and Okinawa. Japan is ranked #1 in the world by the World Economic Forum as the most desirable tourism location. Renowned for storied culture and natural beauty, the mystique of the “Land of the Rising Sun” is sure to be an experience you will never forget.



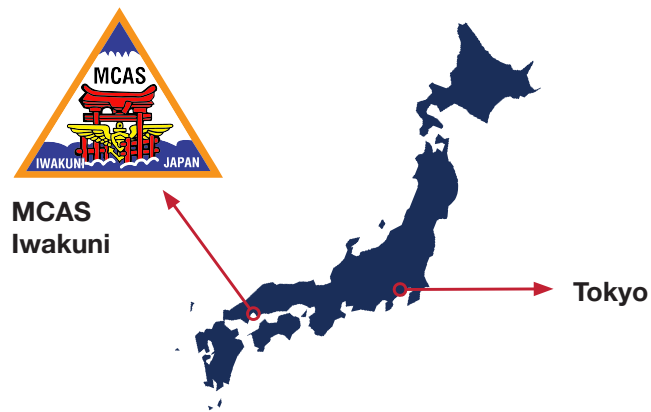
Status of Forces Agreement

The Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) is a treaty between the United States and Japan setting out the terms under which military members, Department of Defense civilian employees, and family members are allowed to operate within the country of Japan. SOFA status is a legal residency in Japan requiring those under SOFA status to observe certain responsibilities such as being a goodwill ambassador and respectful representative of the United States and learning and obeying Japanese laws. MCAS Iwakuni and MCCS Iwakuni hold our relationship with our host nation, Japan, in high regard. Failure to meet the responsibilities of a SOFA member can result in disciplinary action from both MCAS Iwakuni and MCCS Iwakuni. For example, driving under the influence (DUI) is a very serious offense in Japan and a violation of the MCAS Iwakuni Station Order. A DUI can result in criminal legal action from Japan, suspension of the driver’s license from MCAS Iwakuni, and a 2-week suspension from MCCS Iwakuni.

General Information on Iwakuni

Iwakuni City is located in the eastern part of Yamaguchi Prefecture in the southern portion of Honshu. Iwakuni has a beautiful landscape with ocean scenery, lush green mountains, and flowing rivers reminiscent of areas in southwest Virginia or in Iwakuni's sister city Everett, Washington.

Iwakuni has a population of approximately 129,000 but is considered to be part of rural Japan, or "inaka," as are many regions outside of major cities like Tokyo and Osaka. Comparatively, Hiroshima City has a population of roughly 1.2 million and is located about 45 to 60 minutes away by car or train. You may be surprised by the charm and culture that Iwakuni provides with its leisurely pace.



Although situated in a rural area, residents of Iwakuni can experience high noise pollution. The local airport serves both commercial and military aircrafts, and there is near constant air traffic noise above the city. In addition, the Iwakuni train station houses a popular mode of transportation and residents may hear train noises throughout the day depending on where they live.

Japan has both common and unique insects like any other country. Particularly in Iwakuni, residents will encounter mosquitos, spiders, centipedes, and many others. The local stores sell all the products needed to combat these critters.

Traveling Around Iwakuni and Beyond

Many areas of Japan are accessible from Iwakuni through various modes of transportation. Be sure to do some exploring while you are stationed in Iwakuni.

The local train runs through Iwakuni Station, only a few minutes away from base. Local trains are an affordable transportation option for destinations within the Yamaguchi Prefecture and to visit Hiroshima City.

A major tolled expressway called the Sanyo has a dedicated entrance/exit to Iwakuni that runs across most of Honshu; Iwakuni residents can reach Kyushu, Shikoku, and the Greater Osaka and Kyoto areas in few hours by car. While the 80 kmh/50 mph speed limit is considerably slower than the average American highway, there is typically far less traffic during weekend drives and the roads are very well kept. If road trips are your preferred way to explore Japan, ETC cards will allow you to pass through the Sanyo toll gates with ease and offer significant discounts.

The Shinkansen 新幹線, also known as the bullet train, runs through Shin-Iwakuni Station and provides an opportunity to travel beyond Iwakuni via fast, modern technology. The “Shin” averages a speed of 261.8 kmh/162.7mph.

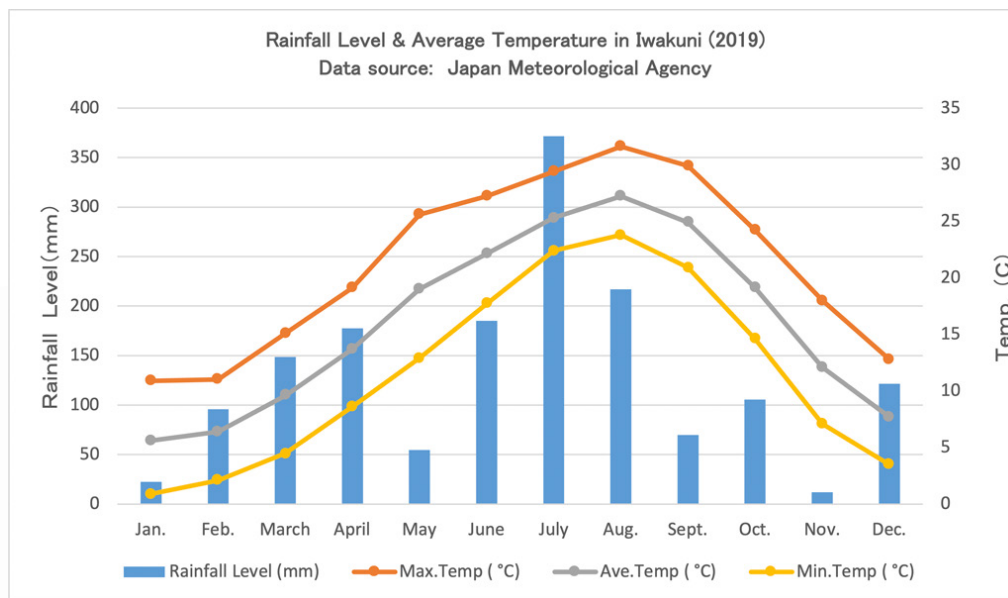
The Iwakuni Kintai-kyo Airport is conveniently located just outside of base and offers daily flights to Tokyo and Okinawa at a reasonable price. Many Iwakuni residents take a quick flight to Toyko on a holiday weekend.



Iwakuni Weather

Iwakuni City has a fair amount of seasonal variation in weather patterns and is similar to North Carolina. For the most part, the weather is fairly mild and generally quite pleasant though there is a typhoon (hurricane/tropical cyclone) season that runs from May to October when the weather can get very bad, very quickly if a storm is passing by.

The below chart shows the average rainfall and temperatures in Iwakuni. Generally speaking, spring and autumn are mild and pleasant featuring cherry blossoms and fall leaves respectively. Late autumn and summer are hot and humid with temperatures that can reach 100 °F. Iwakuni displays the “heat island” effect seen in concrete jungles. During this hot and humid time of year, it is highly encouraged to use the Japanese air conditioner dehumidifier function, often labeled as “dry mode.” This feature quickly pulls humidity out of the air and leaves you feeling much cooler. Dehumidifiers also deter any mold that would grow in the humid air.





In most of Japan, mid-June to mid-July is the rainiest season of the year with the “Baiu rains” or “plum rains.” Iwakuni City lies between Chugoku Mountains and Shikoku Mountains and is seldom affected by precipitation, resulting in a city with one of the least rainy days per year in Japan and many fine days all year round.

Winter is also mild with temperatures dropping to only 25 °F and the rare occurrence of snow accumulation for a short period of time. Winter sport enthusiasts will be pleased to know that skiing, snowboarding, and sledding are available at resorts only a short drive away!

It is also helpful for you to see seasonal clothing ideas below:

- Spring (March–May): Topcoat, jacket, or sweater
- Summer (June–August): Light breathable clothing, short sleeves
- Autumn (September–November): same as spring
- Winter (December–February): Down jacket, wool coat, warm sweater, scarf, gloves



Natural Disasters and Extreme Weather in Japan

Japan is prone to natural disasters and environmental hazards, due to the country's location in the Pacific Ocean and the Ring of Fire.

Most frequent events throughout Japan are:

- Earthquakes
- Typhoons
- Heat Waves

Occasional events throughout Japan are:

- Tsunami, consequence of earthquakes
- Volcanic Eruptions

Japan is located on a major fault line and experiences thousands of earthquakes every year. Most earthquakes are small and benign; however, there are large and even devastating earthquakes at times. There are phone applications that track earthquakes in Japan and alert residents to an imminent earthquake and provide details regarding intensity and location. Iwakuni seldom experiences earthquakes severe enough to cause structural damage. Despite this fact, Japanese architecture uses state of the art anti-seismic construction techniques, and very strict prevention standards provide protection from most natural disasters.

Japan's typhoon season is May through October, with August to September being peak typhoon season. During this time, Iwakuni may experience high winds and heavy rains. According to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) data collected over the past 30 years, annually about 24 typhoons occur in the Pacific and on average 11 approach Japan. Out of these 11 typhoons that approach Japan in average, only a few impact the city of Iwakuni. The intensity of typhoons impacting Iwakuni is greatly reduced due to the protection provided by the surrounding islands and mountains. Iwakuni may experience floods as the Nishiki River crosses the city and many other rivers feed into the Nishiki River. Flooding can lead to occasional mudslides and/or landslides.

JMA is constantly monitoring 50 of the 111 active volcanoes known in Japan. Iwakuni City is remote from any volcanic activity, with the nearest active volcano approximately 100km from the Installation.



Installation Facilities and Available Services



Medical Services

Healthcare for DoD civilians and their family members not enrolled in TRICARE has its challenges. It is the responsibility of the prospective employee to research available healthcare and determine if they and their family's needs can be met.

1. Naval Family Branch Clinic (NFBC): MCAS Iwakuni (MCASI) does not have a Navy hospital; the NFBC is equipped for basic medical needs and is limited based on resources and availability. Active-Duty personnel and those enrolled Tricare Prime have priority for NFBC Services. DoD Civilian employees and family members utilization of NFBC resources is extremely limited as they can only be seen on a Space Available basis.

2. Telehealth: Telehealth options are limited overseas as many medical professionals can only see residents of their State of licensure. Prospective employees are encouraged to contact their medical providers regarding their specific telehealth policies and capabilities.

3. Off Base: Civilians typically utilize Off Base medical providers with the assistance of a patient-hired translator. In most cases, patients pay medical providers in yen for medical care at the time of their appointment and file for reimbursement with their insurance company.

Aetna International utilizes a third party payor/service that allows employees and their dependents to pay only their patient copay/deductible, which is very helpful for procedures with a higher cost. The third-party payor service is coordinated through NAF Human Resources when there is a minimum of 72 hours' advanced notice with an approved medical provider.

Translator fees are not reimbursable through the MCCS Health Insurance provider but can be submitted as a flexible spending expense.

It is important to know that Japanese Medical Providers are legally allowed to deny healthcare to SOFA members, even in the event of an emergency. While denial of healthcare is not common, the potential exists.

Dental Services

1. On Base: The Dental Clinic is primarily for active-duty personnel and their sponsored family members. Civilian personnel are only eligible to be seen for emergency services.

2. Off Base: Civilians are encouraged to utilize off base dental facilities. There are several local Japanese dental clinics with English speaking staff. In most cases, patients pay in yen at the time of their appointment and file a claim for reimbursement with their insurance company.

Pharmacy Services

1. On Base: NFBC has a pharmacy located on the first floor that supplies American approved medicines, both generic and branded. DoD civilian utilization of the NFBC Pharmacy is limited to: (1) prescriptions from episodic treatment, (2) original, hard copy prescriptions from American credentialed prescribers, or (3) medications are not available in Japan. NFBC payments are processed through a centralized office and bills are delivered via mail. Civilians can opt into email notifications as well. Due to the remote location of Iwakuni, delays in shipment may be experienced and cannot be guaranteed.

- From the United States: 011-81-827-94-8280
- From within Japan: 0827-94-8280
- From DSN: 315-255-8280

2. Mail Service Pharmacy: MCCS employees enrolled in MCCS Iwakuni's Aetna International Health Insurance can utilize CVS Caremark Mail Service Pharmacy to have medications mailed. Enrollees can submit co-pays to the Flexible Spending Account for reimbursement. More information regarding Mail Service Pharmacy is available at this link: <https://www.aetna.com/individuals-families/pharmacy/rx-home-delivery.html>

3. Off Base: Japanese approved medicines are available at local pharmacies in Iwakuni. Patients would need to pay for medicines at the pharmacy and file for reimbursement with their insurance company.

It is the prospective employee's responsibility to research if their prescriptions are available in Japan, and if not contact the NFBC Pharmacy directly to see if the prescriptions are available through their service.

Educational Services

1. School Liaison Officer (SLO): The School Liaison Program works collaboratively with the command, Child and Youth Programs, Marine Corps Family Team Building, Exceptional Family Member Program, and the base schools to address educational issues involving military children (K-12). The SLO acts as a communication link as the communication link between the installation



and school personnel to include principals and teachers. The SLO can be reached at: <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/child-youth/k-12-school-liaison-program>.

2. Department of Defense Schools: MCAS Iwakuni has multiple Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools. More information can be found at the following link: <https://www.dodea.edu/Pacific/east/MCASIwakuni/index.cfm>.

a. Matthew C. Perry Primary School

b. Iwakuni Intermediate School

c. Iwakuni Middle School

d. Matthew C. Perry High School

3. Personal & Professional Development (P&PD): MCCS P&PD is available to provide assistance with education goals to active-duty members, veterans, DoD civilians, and family members. Advisors provide guidance regarding which college to attend, what subject(s) to study, funding, and degree acceleration. More information can be found at the following link: <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/education>.

4. Japanese Schools: Iwakuni City offers multiple tiers of education for American students: daycare, elementary, middle school, and high school. Keep in mind requirements to attend school will vary depending on the child's grade level and class availability. Please be advised that not all Japanese schools accept American students, and some off-base programs are not bilingual.

Child Care Services

1. On Base: There are age specific child care options available on base. More detailed information can be found at the following link: <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/child-youth>.

a. Child Development Center (CDC): The CDC offers full day childcare for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years (not enrolled in kindergarten). The CDC complies with Department of Defense and National Accreditation criteria to present quality educational programs. Partial day childcare and hourly care are offered on a space available basis. Priority is given to military children according to the demand of the community, and there is often a waitlist to enroll in care. Please contact OMBIwakuni.ResourceandReferralPosition@usmc-mccs.org with questions regarding priority and waitlists.

b. School Age Care (SAC): The SAC center offers a variety of planned group and individual activities after school for children ages 5-12/kindergarten through sixth grade. Activities include cooking projects, homework help, birthday parties, field trips, camp days during



school breaks, and cultural exchange events. SAC is an affiliate of the Boys & Girls Club of America. Priority is given to military children according to the demand of the community. Please contact OMBIwakuni.ResourceandReferralPosition@usmc-mccs.org with questions regarding priority and waitlists.

c. Youth Center: The Youth Center is open to children ages 10-13 and is located on the third floor of the Iwakuni Middle School. The Youth Center is open after school Monday through Friday, on no-school days, and weekends.

d. Teen Center: The Teen Center is open to children ages 13-18 and is located on the first floor of Crossroads, Building 410. The Teen Center is open after school Monday through Friday, on no-school days, and weekends.

2. Off Base: There are Japanese daycare centers referred to as Yochien that are open to provide care to children of base personnel. Yochiens accept children ages 3 years and older who are potty trained. It is important to note that yochiens observe Japanese holidays and DoD civilians are expected to make proper arrangements to accommodate their child care availability.

Family Services

MCCS Iwakuni offers various services to assist with your family's needs. Detailed information can be found at the links below.

a. Marine Corps Family Team Building. <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/mcftb>

b. Transition Readiness Program. <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/transition-readiness>

c. Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP). <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/efmp>

d. Information & Referral. <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/information-referral>

Mail and Communications

1. On Base: There are two post offices aboard MCAS Iwakuni that offer similar services to the U.S. Postal Service. Letters and parcels may be mailed worldwide with similar postage and shipping



prices to those in the Continental United States (CONUS). DoD civilian employees are assigned a post office box, which can be obtained prior to arrival in Iwakuni through coordination with the sponsor of the incoming employee. Please be advised that there is an extended timeline for receiving packages; typically, a priority USPS package arrives within 10-14 days.

2. Off Base: There are a variety of Japanese shipping services available in town including a Japan Post Office within a 5-minute drive from base.

Money and Banking

1. Currency: U.S. currency is most commonly used on base, but some on-base business activities also accept Japanese Yen. Japanese services and businesses primarily use cash (Yen). An adequate amount of Yen should be on hand if unsure whether or not a business accepts credit cards. Currency exchange may be accomplished at Community Bank, MCCS cash cages, Japanese banks, certain ATMs, or exchange offices off base. The exchange rate fluctuates frequently.

2. Banking Facilities: There are two banking facilities on base, Community Bank and Navy Federal Credit Union, with multiple ATMs placed around base.



Shopping and General Services

1. Dining: There are several food service and dining/entertainment facilities on base. More information is available at the following link: <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/dining>



- a. Club Iwakuni
- b. Mobile Canteen
- c. The Hangar Enlisted Club
- d. The Hangar Food Court
- e. Crossroads Food Court (Currently closed for renovation until 2024)
- f. Torii Pines Café
- g. Chili's
- h. Bulldogs Burgers Food Truck
- i. Combination Bulldogs Burgers and Pizza Hut

2. Recreation: MCCS Iwakuni offers several recreational activities; detailed information can be found at the links below.

- a. **Strike Zone Bowling Center.** <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/recreation/strike-zone>
- b. **Sakura Theater.** <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/dining-entertainment/movies/>
- c. **Special Events:** Check the MCCS Event Calendar for various fun events such as music festivals, Halloween parties, Marine Corps Birthday celebrations, and the annual Friendship Day Air Show. For a look at the event calendar, please check <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/calendar-of-events>.

3. Marine Corps Exchange: The Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) on MCAS Iwakuni is the largest Exchange in the Marine Corps and carries a wide variety of products available to authorized shoppers aboard the station. Military clothing, Four Seasons gift shop, food, consumables, electronics, outdoor recreation, clothing & accessories, shoes, home & kitchen, furniture, and



more are available sales tax free. MCX shoppers can take advantage of price match for authorized sellers. Additionally, shoppers can order Navy Exchange (NEX) products, and the products can be delivered to the local MCX in Iwakuni. However due to our remote location, shortage or delays of goods are encountered throughout the year. For more information about the MCX, visit <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/shopping/marine-corps-exchange>.

4. Convenience Stores

a. On Base: Two Marine Marts are available on-base. The Northside Marine Mart, located on the north side of MCASI main base; and Atago Marine Mart, located at the Atago family housing facility.

b. Off Base: With over 50,000 convenience stores in Japan, the nearest store is never more than a few blocks away. Convenience stores are commonly referred to as “konbini.” Konbinis are heavily relied upon given their plentiful location, convenience, and hours of operation. Most Konbini are open year-round, 7 days/week, 24 hours/day with delicious and affordable meals, basic toiletries, clean restrooms, international friendly ATMs, mailing capabilities, or delivery of Amazon packages.

c. Vending Machines: There are approximately 4,000,000 operational vending machines in Japan; equating to one vending machine for every 32 people in Japan. From normal vending machines that serve cold drinks, culturally specific machines that serve local fare such as soup stock or oden (a Japanese type of stew or hot pot), to bizarre machines that serve edible insects; if it can be packaged and served via vending machine, it is likely that machine exists.

5. Services: Various services are available for

your convenience on station. See the links below for more information.

- a. **Americable.** <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/programs/americable>
- b. **Barking Lot Kennel.** <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/programs/barking-lot-kennel>
- c. **Tanaka Optical.** <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/programs/tanaka-optical>
- d. **Barber Shop.** <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/programs/barber-shop>
- e. **Plage Beauty Salon.** <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/programs/beauty-salon>
- f. **Typhoon Motors.** <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/programs/typhoon-motors>
- g. **Car Rental.** <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/services/automotive-services>
- h. **IACE Travel.** <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/programs/iace-travel>
- i. **Information, Tours, & Travel (IT&T).** <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/dining-entertainment/information-tours-travel>
- j. **SoftBank** (Mobile phone company). <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/programs/softbank>
- k. **Starch & Stripes** (Laundering, dry cleaning, tailoring, etc.). <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/programs/starch-and-stripes>

Grocery Shopping

1. Commissary: The commissary carries a wide variety of the same brands we are accustomed to in the US. Due to Iwakuni's remote location there may be delays or shortages of goods that are typically only available at the MCAS Iwakuni





Commissary; however, there are off base grocery stores that may be able to accommodate your needs. For more information, visit: <https://www.commissaries.com/shopping/store-locations/iwakuni-mcas>

2. Off Base: Many off base grocery stores are located minutes away from MCAS Iwakuni. Japanese grocery stores carry a variety of produce, meats, and seafood, as well as other household goods. However, the size and inventory vary based store to store based on location. Individuals with dietary restrictions or food allergies, should to utilize a Japanese translator to ensure that items are free from allergens.

Lodging

1. On Base:

a. Inns of the Corps Temporary Lodging Facility (TLF). The Inns of the Corps is typically reserved for military and civilian personnel who are arriving or departing from Iwakuni on official orders. Reservation priority is as follows: active duty on PCS orders, civilian/contractor on PCS orders, TAD, and then leisure travel on a space available basis. Please visit <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/lodging/inns-of-the-corps> for more information.

b. Kintai Inn. While possible to secure temporary lodging on base for leisure purposes, it is recommended to find alternative accommodations should you find that lodging is necessary. There are different off base options available within minutes of Iwakuni Main Gate. Please visit <https://www.dodlodging.com/html/MB-iwakuni.htm> for more information.



2. Off Base: There are several off base hotels conveniently located in downtown Iwakuni, just a short drive from the base.

United Service Organizations (USO)



USO Iwakuni is located on the 2nd floor of the MCAS Iwakuni Passenger Terminal. There is a large lobby with sofas and chairs for relaxation, and cafe style tables to enjoy a meal or complete work on your mobile device. There are eight Common Access Card (CAC) enabled computers, a game room with Xbox One/PS4/PS5/Nintendo Switch, and a theater room complete with individual theater chairs. Please visit <https://japan.uso.org/iwakuni> for more information.

MWR Programs

1. Library: The MCCS Iwakuni award-winning Library features a recently expanded children's section, a range of virtual and in-person programs, and the newest releases of books, DVDs, CDs, and video games for checkout. The Makerspace, a collaborative and hands-on learning area, offers robotics, Legos, 3D printing, cutting machinery, heat presses, and much more. For more information, please visit our website <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/library> or contact Iwakuni.Library@usmc-mccs.org.

2. Family Readiness: The goal of Family Readiness is to promote success in the mission, life, and career events for all individuals stationed aboard the air station through personal and professional development through the following programs: Information, Referral, and Relocation; Marine Corps Family Team Building; Cultural Adaptation; Family Member Employment Assistance Program; and Installation Volunteer Coordinator. More information can be found at: <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/mcftb> or contact OMBIwakuniInformation.ReferralandRelocation@usmc-mccs.org

3. Semper Fit: Semper Fit programs improve and sustain readiness through the implementation of health, fitness, sports, aquatics recreation, and quality of life programs for Marines, Sailors, family members, retirees, and other eligible MCAS Iwakuni civilian personnel. Together, the catalog of Semper Fit programs mitigate stress, enhance performance, and positively impact retention.

a. Athletics Branch: The Athletics Branch is committed to providing the best facilities, equipment, and most qualified staff to provide opportunities for participants to remain active and competitive through all stages of life. The Athletics Branch also promotes positive experiences through sports, which develops physical literacy and a love of athletic activities. For more information, please visit <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/recreation> or contact OMBIwakuni.Athletics@usmc-mccs.org.

i. Aquatics: 50M indoor pool & 50M seasonal outdoor pool. <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/recreation/swimming>





ii. Competitive Events: Competitive races, virtual races, and off base events. <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/recreation/adult-sports>

iii. Intramural: Commander's Cup, open season, and US/Japan tournaments. <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/recreation/adult-sports>

iv. Outdoor Recreation: Recreation trips, gear issue, and party equipment rentals. <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/recreation/outdoor-recreation>

v. Paintball and Archery: Recreational play and group functions. <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/recreation/crossfire-park>

vi. Youth Sports: Various sports and US/Japan friendly matches. <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/recreation/youth-sports>

b. Fitness Branch: The Fitness Branch provides facilities, education and services designed to improve Warfighter readiness and promote maintaining healthy lifestyle behaviors for active-duty service members, their families, and the rest of the MCAS Iwakuni community. For more information, please visit <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/fitness> or contact OMBIwakuni.Fitness@usmc-mccs.org.

i. Fitness Facilities: IronWorks Atago (24 hour), IronWorks Main, IronWorks North. <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/fitness/centers>

ii. Group Fitness Classes: Yoga, Spin, Zumba, etc. (free of charge). <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/fitness/group-fitness>

iii. Health Promotion: Health education, health assessments, nutrition counseling (free of charge). <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/fitness/health-promotion>

iv. Massage/Spa Services: Massage, facials, wraps, scrubs (at a cost). <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/recreation-fitness/massage-services>

v. Personal Training: One-on-one, group training sessions (at a cost). <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/fitness>

vi. Specialty Programs: Judo, Cardio Kickboxing (at a cost). <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/fitness>

vii. Youth Fitness: Dance, fitness classes (at a cost). <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/fitness>

Religious Services

1. The MCAS Iwakuni Station Chapel: The Chapel supports various worship services, education programs, and religious group events. These events are open to all persons stationed at or working at MCAS Iwakuni. More information is available at: <https://www.mcasiwakuni.marines.mil/Organizations/Station/Chaplain/>

2. Off Base: There are various religion organizations located throughout the local community that welcome base personnel.

Privately Owned Vehicles

1. Driver's Education: MCCS Iwakuni offers a certified Driver's Education course with classroom instruction, behind-the-wheel instruction, and a final exam. For more information, please visit <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/programs/drivers-education>

2. Licensing and Registration: Detailed information is available at https://www.mcasiwakuni.marines.mil/Portals/112/Docs/pmo/Iwakuni_Drive_Safe_Pamphlet.pdf?ver=wNaWBDvOoUeAVKkT9xLVQg%3d%3d

a. A valid driver's license and a SOFA license is required to operate a vehicle in Japan. The SOFA license class and exam are offered upon arrival at Iwakuni at the mandatory Welcome Aboard Brief. You will be given time to review the material to be tested, such as Japanese road signs, prior to taking the examination.

b. Vehicles must be registered with the base Pass and Registration Office.



c. Annual Japanese road tax must be paid every April. Road tax amounts vary by vehicle. For example, a smaller vehicle will pay around \$30 while a larger car, similar to those common in the United States, will pay closer to \$200. The proof of payment of road tax must be provided to base Pass and Registration.

3. Purchase: New and used cars and motorcycles are available for purchase, and used vehicles in decent condition can be purchased for prices as low as several hundred dollars and up. Be advised, roads in Japan are narrower in comparison to roads in the United States. It is recommended to research the size and shape of the vehicle to ensure comfortable navigation of the Japanese roads; especially as we drive on the left side of the road in Japan.

4. Insurance:

a. Japanese Compulsory Insurance (JCI) is required for all vehicles and lasts for a period of 2 years. It is recommended that drivers begin the JCI renewal process 30 days prior to the expiration date and be prepared to pay around \$500 to \$1500 depending on the type of vehicle and any necessary repairs.

b. Secondary Car insurance is required, but is significantly more affordable compared to car insurance in the United States. The insurance premium varies according to the type of vehicle, but basic insurance premium can average around \$200 per year. Secondary auto insurance can easily be purchased aboard base by utilizing the Chubb Insurance Office.

Alternative Transportation



If a privately owned vehicle is not your transportation of choice, there are several alternatives including: MCAS Iwakuni buses, taxis, Iwakuni City buses, local trains, and an incredibly popular mode of transportation in Japan – bicycles.

Housing

1. Off Base: Most civilians live in off base Japanese rental residences. Renters should be prepared to pay a 2-month deposit plus the agent fee in cash (Yen) at the time of signing the lease, which can amount to several thousands of Dollars. It is important to note that Japanese residences are different than those in the United States. For example, the stairways and hallways are narrower which can be a stopping point for larger pieces of furniture.

2. On Base: Civilians accompanied by family members can request to live on base through the MCAS Iwakuni Housing Office. Military families have priority for on base housing, so approval is not guaranteed nor a common occurrence.



Pets

Personnel are authorized to bring pets, but it is not recommended as housing options are limited and travel may require special arrangements and fees. For more information, please visit <https://www.mcasiwakuni.marines.mil/PCS-to-Iwakuni/Pets/>

1. On Base Housing: There is a conditional two pet policy aboard MCAS Iwakuni for residents in base family housing.

2. Off-base Housing: Housing that accepts pets is difficult to find and some landlords will only accept small breeds.

3. Veterinary Services:

a. On Base: There is a Veterinary Clinic on base. For more information, please visit <https://www.usarj.army.mil/units/vet/>.

b. Off Base: Japanese veterinary offices are available if the installation veterinary office is not



available to assist.

4. Pet Cremation: Pet cremations are not available on base, but there are Japanese pet funeral establishments that will memorialize your precious pet memories. Burials are not permitted.

Funeral and Memorial Services

The remains of civilians who were MCCS employees at the time of passing will be sent to their home of record in the US. The MCCS NAF Human Resources Office will identify the Next of Kin (NOK) to coordinate the mortuary arrangements and ensure costs are allocated in accordance with Federal regulations. It is important to mention that it is prohibited to bury remains in Japan.



**Thank you and we
hope to see you soon.**

Non-Appropriated Fund Human Resources



Non-Appropriated Fund Human Resources **Statement of Living and Working Conditions**

I acknowledge that I have received and read the MCCS Iwakuni Statement of Living and Working Conditions.

Applicant Signature

Date

