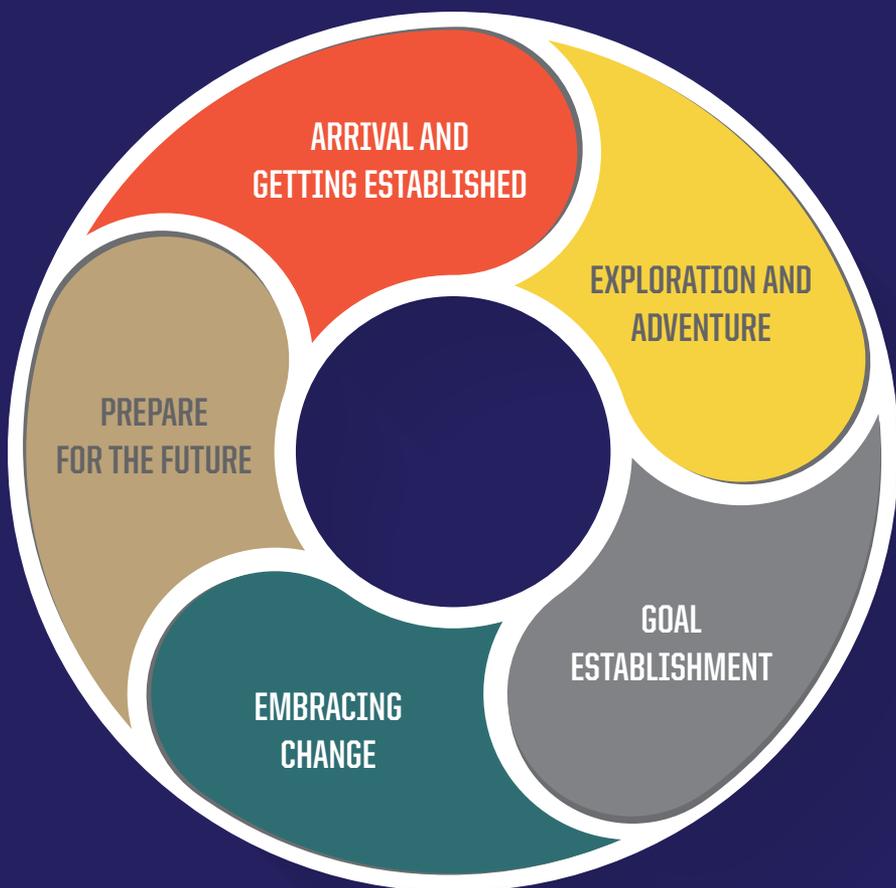


PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Marine Corps Community Services • Iwakuni, Japan



PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The primary mission of Personal and Professional Development (P&PD) is to assist Marines and their spouses in achieving their personal and professional goals. Education & Career Assistance, MCCS Libraries, Family Member Employment Assistance, Relocation Assistance, and Information & Referral Services support mission readiness and improve morale amongst all active duty Marines and their families. The Leadership Scholar Program, Personal Financial Management Program, Transition Assistance Program, and Marine for Life help prepare Marines for life after active-duty service, and offer personal, professional and educational support before, during and after separation.





ARRIVAL AND GETTING ESTABLISHED

Welcome to Iwakuni, Japan! When you arrive, there are many things to do and adapt to: new command, new food to try, new customs to learn. It can be both exciting and overwhelming to move to a new country. You (and your family) are not alone! Personal & Professional Development offers an array of services to assist during your transition and to help you make the most of your time in Iwakuni.

Two of your first stops are Welcome Aboard Indoctrination and the Station Library.

At the Welcome Aboard Indoctrination, you will gain information about opportunities and responsibilities that come with being a member of the military community, Japanese culture and customs, and much more. There is an information fair where you will get to talk with subject matter experts from more than 20 organizations and service providers about ways to enhance your Iwakuni experience. In the afternoon, you will have the opportunity to take the required course to get your Status of Agreement (SOFA) driver's license.

The Library also has an extensive collection of print and electronic books, audiobooks, music and magazines, as well as computers with printers.

Marines within 90 days of arrival at their first permanent duty station must attend the Personal Readiness Seminar (PRS) facilitated by P&PD. This touch point course is part of the Military Life Cycle Model approach to educating and training members throughout their careers to improve military readiness and prepare them for successful civilian reintegration. The curriculum serves as an introduction to the Life Cycle and in-depth Personal Financial Management Training.



"I appreciated use of the library computers when I needed access to materials and sites I could not access on my own computer. The staff has been very helpful in accessing newly released books I have requested for my personal reading, as well as books for our book club. I have enjoyed the variety of books on tape available at the library as well. The monthly programs are also a plus. I enjoyed the speaker on drawing and the holiday craft special evening."

Holly Bastick, EDIS Early Childhood Specialist



EXPLORATION AND ADVENTURE

Now that you're established, it's the perfect time to get out and explore Japan. You may also want to use this time to explore career and education options. Our expert staff can help you evaluate your interests to identify the best career and education pathways for you.

P&PD is committed to helping you navigate through the transient military lifestyle and acts as the liaison between military and community resources so that you can make the most of your time in Iwakuni.

EXPLORING JAPAN:

Want to learn Japanese? The Library has many resources to help you get started. You can use our free online language learning program, Transparent Language, or take a Survival Japanese class with our Cultural Adaptation specialist. Be sure to check out our Japan cultural section for books on Japanese language, culture, history and travel.

Contact our Information and Referral Specialist to obtain information on local activities you can do in and around Iwakuni and for referrals to different services you might need.

EXPLORING WITH FAMILY:

If you want to help your children on the adventure to develop a love of reading, there are many programs and activities, including weekly story times, aimed at all age groups available at the Library.

EXPLORING EDUCATION:

If you're thinking about going to college, stop by P&PD to get personalized advice about choosing the right college and degree program. You can also talk to representatives from our on-site colleges, University of Maryland University College and Central Texas College.

EXPLORING CAREERS:

Schedule an appointment to get personalized help with your job search. Find out about local opportunities, hone your résumé and prepare for challenging interview questions.

Iwakuni locals got to pick fresh tea leaves and learn about how Japanese tea is made during the Tea Harvesting Cultural Tour



College 101 gives you useful information to get started with college and access military Tuition Assistance.



"As the Lead Law Enforcement Instructor here on base I recently sought help from the Education Services Section for PMO Marines. The specialists were extremely helpful and on short notice an Education Services Specialist volunteered to come to our unit and speak during training. Their extensive knowledge on furthering education and on how to read Joint Services Transcripts helped to energize many of the Marines into pursuing their degrees. Currently I am also finishing up my degree and without their test proctoring services would not be able to take exams (online) from my college back east. Greatly appreciated!"

William Dempster



GOAL ESTABLISHMENT

What you do while you're in Iwakuni can not only help you enjoy Japan, but can also help you prepare for the future. Set goals to acquire new skills through education or employment, learn a language, get a job, or start building wealth. Volunteering and pursuing education can also enhance opportunities for career advancement. Personal & Professional Development is here to help you develop and accomplish your goals.

EXPAND YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

If your goal is expanding your professional knowledge, the Library has programs and professional reading lists to get you started. We also have many other print and online resources to learn about any subject you are interested in.

The Library also offers Universal Class, an online program to help you gain continuing education in over 500 different subjects ranging from Microsoft office to pet care. You can take classes to improve your job skills or just for fun!

ACCOMPLISH MILESTONES:

You may want to advance your education, obtain college credit, or improve your language skills. P&PD can help you find out about college and education options, take admissions exams, or gain college credit without even entering a classroom. The Library has both online and print study guides for all of the major admissions tests as well as CLEP and DSST. Active duty members can take most of these tests for free. P&PD also has classes and individual assistance to help you choose the best school, and apply for tuition assistance or other funding options.

ACHIEVE READINESS:

If you or your family members are seeking employment, you can learn about local opportunities, get assistance with your résumé, and learn how to ace the interview.

Financial goals are important. If you want to become independently wealthy, or at least, gain better control of your finances, you can attend classes or obtain individual assistance with qualified Personal Financial Management staff.



Join the community and pledge to save for your financial goals during the annual Military Saves Week campaign.

FAST FACTS:

- Hundreds of military family members get assistance each year to help them identify and accomplish their professional and educational goals.
- Did you know that each year nearly \$500,000 of military Tuition Assistance is awarded for Marines working toward their degrees?

"After meeting with P6PD staff, we developed a system that has allowed us to save a little over \$2,000 a month and it provides us peace of mind for the seen and the un-seen circumstances that can occur."

Marilyn Cruz, Military Spouse



EMBRACING CHANGE

If there's one thing that's certain in life, it's change. Planning for life's major changes can help you to accomplish all of your goals. Whether you are preparing for graduation, getting married, buying a vehicle or home, growing your family, choosing or changing careers, or planning for retirement, P&PD will prepare you to successfully reach these milestones.

Major purchases, career and family changes mean that your finances will change. P&PD staff can assist you in creating and updating your budget so that you can confidently take the next step.

If you want to be a millionaire when you retire, starting your saving early is the first step towards realizing that goal. You can attend classes and get individual assistance to develop successful strategies for saving and investing.

Give back and help other individuals PCSing to Iwakuni by participating in the sponsorship program. A sponsor's role is to provide needed assistance and a warm welcome to personnel relocating to their new duty station by providing helpful information and showing the newcomer(s) around base and the local community. Contact your Installation Indoctrination Specialist for more information and be a great sponsor today!

FAST FACTS:

- In 2013, the C Fund of the Thrift Savings Plan had an annual return of 32.45%.
- According to a study from Emory University, men who spend between \$2,000 and \$4,000 on an engagement ring are 30% more likely to become divorced than those who spent between \$500 and \$2,000.



Did you know using library services can save you money?

The value of Library service provided in 2014 in Iwakuni:

\$1,347,287

(Calculated according to DoD General Library annual report formula)



PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE

When preparing for the future, you may experience a variety of feelings: anxiety, excitement, fear, and anticipation of what is next. P&PD can help you by providing education and training for successful transitions into a new duty station, employment, college, new business ventures, or your post-military career.

When you PCS, it is important to understand your moving entitlements and prepare for medical coverage and financial changes. During the PCS with Success workshop, representatives will be available to answer your questions and help you through your move to your next duty station.

FAST FACTS:

- The Transition Readiness Seminar provides education, career, and personal financial management assistance to 350 military members and their spouses preparing to return to civilian life.
- Marines interested in attending top universities upon their transition to civilian life can utilize the Leadership Scholar Program to successfully gain admission.

If Iwakuni will be your last military duty station, you need to pick from several options for your immediate future. All transitioning service members will attend a one-week Transition Readiness Seminar, which will help you learn about your benefits and prepare for a job search.

If you are leaving the military to pursue education or training, you can take the two-day Accessing Higher Education and/or the Career Technical Training Track courses where you will learn how to select a reputable program, access your GI Bill benefits, identify other funding options, and gain a thorough understanding of the application process.

If you are interested in starting your own business you can attend Boots to Business, a two-day workshop facilitated by the Small Business Administration, to help you get started on developing your business plan.



Spouses are encouraged to attend all or as many of these workshops as they wish. A separate Spouse Transition and Readiness Seminar (STARS) provides an overview of the transition process and benefits, and will let you talk directly to the experts and have your questions answered.

BENEFITS QUESTIONS?

A visiting Veterans Affairs representative can help you understand your VA benefits, get your medical reviewed, and apply for education, home loan, compensation, and other benefits.

"The Transition Assistance Program aboard MCAS Iwakuni helped me successfully transition into the civilian world. The plethora of resources, along with individual coaching, résumé review, and networking advice helped me immensely. Thanks to the hard work of the Personal and Professional Development Program, I doubled my taxable income after leaving the military in the location and timeline I was aiming for. Within 2 days of EASing, I had a great job with a Fortune 500 company."

John O'Neal, Jr.

PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CAREER SERVICES

253-6439

- Interviewing Skills
- Build A Better Résumé Workshop
- Federal Job Search Strategies
- Boots to Business

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

253-6250

- Financial Planning
- Retirement and Estate Planning
- Credit and Debt Management
- Investment Planning

EDUCATION

253-3855

- College 101
- Accessing Higher Education
- Career Technical Training
- Military Classification Testing
- SAT/ACT Exam Proctoring

INFORMATION REFERRAL & RELOCATION SERVICES

253-6161

- Welcome Aboard Indoctrination
- PCS with Success
- Sponsorship
- Unit Deployment Briefs
- Local Information

TRANSITION

253-5762

- Transition Readiness Seminar (TRS)
- Spouse Transition Readiness Seminar (STARS)
- Personal Readiness Seminar (PRS)

LIBRARY SERVICES

253-3078

- Print and electronic books, audiobooks, magazines, journals, music, video games and movies for all ages.
- Marine Corps and Navy professional reading lists.
- Inter-Library loan and purchase requests for material the library doesn't have.
- Public use computers with printing, copying, scanning and faxing available.
- Japanese language and culture section.
- Storytimes in English and Japanese.
- Free online resources available 24/7, including free online language learning.
- Reservations for community meeting room and computer lab.
- United Through Reading site.

CULTURAL ADAPTATION

253-6165

- Cultural trips and classes.
- Survival Japanese class.

PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Building 411, first floor

ombiwappd@usmc-mccs.org

 253-6161

