

## INBOUND INFORMATION

### CONGRATULATIONS ON RECEIVING ORDERS TO BEAUTIFUL MCAS IWAKUNI!

*FYI-All inbound personnel should be aware that a renovation project to install central heating/air-conditioning into most of the northside townhouse units will significantly slow down the waiting lists (in some cases maybe a year plus). The townhouses are the only quarters where dogs are allowed, and most Japanese landlords will not accept them. Cats or small pets such as hamsters (limit of 2) are allowed in the Midrise apartments. It is strongly recommended that families DO NOT bring a pet, or wait until assigned to government quarters to send for the animal.*

1. Upon arrival you must check in at the Family Housing Office with a copy of your **ENDORSED ORDERS** and an **AREA CLEARANCE**. (For civilians GS11 and above, we will need your **ORDERS** and the most current **SF50**.) Your control date will be the date of detachment from your previous command. (You must also be checked in and not in a leave status—the Joint Reception Center will stamp your orders the day of your arrival). Military members E-4 and above and U.S. Civilians GS11 and above who are on accompanied with dependent orders are eligible for on base government quarters. Waiting times for government quarters can vary from just a few months to over 2 years. Either you or your sponsor should check directly with us to determine what your approximate waiting time will be. You have the option of nonconcurrent travel, if you want to send for your family after government quarters are available. Our e-mail address & DSN phone numbers is on the Iwakuni website ([www.iwakuni.usmc.mil](http://www.iwakuni.usmc.mil)).

1. Plan on having \$3000-\$5000 for your moving expenses. That may include agent's fees, deposits, automobile and so on. When you move off base you will get OHA, MIHA and a Utility allowance (LQA, Living Quarters Allowance for DOD civilians). Check out your entitlements on the web <http://www.dtic.mil/perdiem/ohaform.html> The code for Iwakuni is JA019

#### ON BASE

2. Don't bring a lot of heavy furniture. Quarters both on and off base may be smaller than stateside homes. Housing provides a stove, refrigerator, and dishwasher in on base quarters. You will need to bring your own washer and dryer (electric only), as they are not provided. For command sponsored accompanied with dependents personnel off base we can provide a small American stove, refrigerator and several transformers. An American washer or dryer usually won't fit into a Japanese house.

3. Bringing pets is NOT recommended. *Only two fur bearing pets, such as a cat or dog are allowed in the townhouse quarters, and only cats & small pets such as hamsters are allowed in the Midrise apartments. (No exotic pets)* Since about 70% of family housing are Midrise buildings, dog owners may face longer waits for on base quarters. Also, the townhouses have very small yards, which may not be "pet friendly" for larger dogs. Most off base landlords do not allow pets.

## OFF BASE

- 4. You may need to live off base while waiting for government quarters, but our Housing Referral staff can assist you with finding suitable housing out in town. There may be some adjustments to make, but living in the local community can be a very rewarding cultural experience. Japan is a clean modern country and Japanese neighbors are considerate and are very interested in learning more about *us*. The homes are small in comparison to American houses. There is usually no central heat, but many houses & apartments have combination heating/air conditioning wall units. Kerosene heaters are the most economical way to heat a home, but the newer models are clean and easy to use. There may be tatami , which are woven straw mats on some of the floors in a Japanese house. They are very beautiful, but not designed for heavy furniture. You may want to bring inexpensive area carpets to cover them. Closets and storage space may also be limited. The climate in Iwakuni is similar to North Carolina with cold winters, but not a lot of snow. Plan on bringing warm bedding & clothing. Summers are hot and humid. The electricity in Iwakuni is 100 volts versus 110 in the states. Most appliances will function, but you may want to put larger appliances such as your microwave or computer on a transformer. Housing can lend accompanied personnel several transformers while residing off base. Most service members or eligible civilians are able to find off base housing that is well within their Overseas Housing Allowance or Living Quarters Allowance.**
- 5. If your household goods have not arrived when you move into either on or off base quarters, Temporary furniture is available for up to 60 days. (For command sponsored accompanied personnel only) You may want to put all items that would be immediately needed in your express shipment. Family Services has a lending locker for items such as kitchen items and linens.**