



MEMORANDUM FOR RETIREES

June 15, 2015

FROM: Misawa Military Retirees Association

SUBJECT: Minutes MMRA

1. The bi-monthly meeting of the Misawa Military Retirees Association (MMRA) was held on 2 June 2015 at 1700 hours in the Club Tohoku.

2. Before reading the minutes, the president introduced two guest speakers-Ms. Leah Goss, Airman and Family Readiness Center Casualty Affairs Officer, and Ms. Victoria Rodriguez, Veterans Affairs Benefits Specialist, Japan Representative.

Ms. Rodriguez briefed the members on current VA activities in Japan and VA benefits that veterans overseas can use. Ms. Rodriguez said that the Japan VA Rep makes the rounds in Japan and visits Misawa AB, about every six weeks. She will be here for two weeks to 6/17 and back 8/18 to 8/25. Contact phone is 226-4735 to make appointments. She reminded the members that anyone can file a claim anytime during his/her lifetime after military service. She discussed the VA Foreign Medical Program, also reminded the members that there are VA offices in Guam, Korea, Manila, as well as Japan.

Ms. Goss, the AFRC Casualty Affairs representative discussed the assistance her office provides in the event of the death of a family member of active duty and retired overseas, and how her office works with other offices on base in processing death benefits, and reporting to government agencies. She also discussed the Survivor Benefits Program (SBP). Contact phone is 226-4735 and 226-9314.

3. Paul Sayles read the minutes of the 27 April 2015 meeting which were accepted and approved by the attending members.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Photos - Joe Roginski said he has not sent any messages to solicit photos, but Dave Barton suggested it would be better to do something like this at the Retiree Appreciation Day event. (CLOSED).
- b. Dave Barton said that The Exchange does not expect any headquarters support for "Still Serving" and the local Retiree Appreciation Day event. However, Dave said the Misawa manager will support the appreciation day, regardless of AAFES' "Still Serving" plans or lack thereof. (OPEN)

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Dave Barton announced that the Memorial Day Retreat ceremony went off well and sixteen retirees attended to make up the Retiree Flight for a very meaningful ceremony. (CLOSED)
- b. Ray Eberhardt asked why there was no official commemoration for Veterans' Day. Dave Barton said he would bring that up with the Chiefs' Group and get back to us. (OPEN)

- c. Cecil Hahn asked why on some days the flags were not flying in front of the Wing Headquarters building, when the flags were supposedly all-weather and authorized to fly 24/7. A member suggested that the flags were lowered when high winds were forecast and perhaps Wing Protocol had no specific procedures for raising them again. Dave Barton said he would ask about it. (OPEN)
6. FINANCIAL REPORT
Dave Barton read the financial report which was accepted and approved by the membership present.
7. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1745. The president announced that the next meeting will be on 4 August 2015 at 1700 in the Club Tohoku Gray Room.

///Signed///

Joseph Roginski, MSgt (Ret), USAF
Secretary, Misawa Military Retirees' Association
Director, Retiree Activities Office
35FW/CVR
226-4428/09040450149