



April 8, 2016

## MEMORANDUM FOR RETIREES

FROM: Misawa Military Retirees Association

SUBJECT: MMRA Meeting Minutes

1. The bi-monthly meeting of the Misawa Military Retirees Association (MMRA) was held on 5 April 2016 at 1700 hours in the Club Tohoku.

2. Joe Roginski read the minutes of the 2 February 2016 meeting which were accepted and approved by the attending members.

### 3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Base Decals – Dave Barton advised the members that the base decal issue is still open. Dave said USFJ is still considering the issue as it applies to all Japan, and that the AFI applies it only to active duty and DoD civilians only. Dave will advise as information comes available. (OPEN)

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Dave Barton polled the membership and the following change to the constitution was approved to allow honorary membership:

“Section 2. Auxiliary Members:

- a. Will include all dues paying individuals who are physically present in the Tohoku region of Japan or the island of Hokkaido and are veterans who have served four years or more with 50% disability or more with an honorable discharge.”

The revision is currently being reviewed by the private organization office and will be formally incorporated on approval. (CLOSED)

b. The base historian is still holding the project of digitizing the base newspaper for security clearing of the material. This item will remain closed until the historian announces that the project can be re-opened. (CLOSED)

c. Paul Sayles moved that the “the hat be passed” at the meeting as the MMRA’s support of the base’s “Red Feather Community Chest” campaign. The motion was seconded and passed, the hat was also passed, and \$56.00 was raised as the MMRA’s contribution to the campaign. Joe Roginski reported that the MMRA was among the top five organizations donating to the campaign and was presented a plaque of appreciation by the Misawa Red Feather Action Committee. A small story and photo is in the next newsletter. (CLOSED)

d. A member, David Coens, reported that there were three GS-3 full-time security guard positions open for work on the new simulator. Applicants must apply on-line at “USA Jobs”. This item was closed in the last meeting but was re-opened at this meeting because none of the positions had been filled and the criteria for acceptance or eligibility has been broadened. These positions will be good for six months, then a small break and then good for another six months.

Note, the member who reported the positions open reported after the meeting that the positions had been filled. (CLOSED)

e. Joe Roginski and Dave Barton reported that the annual PACAF Retiree Council is requesting inputs from RAOs for the council meeting in May. There was no input from the MMRA or the RAO, but Dave Barton submitted an inquiry about the accuracy and currency of the retiree Address Finder. (CLOSED)

f. A member reported that the base hospital was not responding to MiCare messages in a timely manner. After that meeting Paul Sayles followed up saying he had passed this on to the appropriate office and the problem will be investigated. Members noted that there is confusion as to the criteria for a timely response from MiCare. (OPEN)

g. Edward Pearson inquired if the post office still allowed retirees to send letter mail to the U.S. through the post office for items such as income tax and Christmas cards. Joe Roginski said he was told that non-SOFA persons must use the Japanese mail only. Dave Barton said they usually allow election material like absentee ballots to go out. Joe Roginski will follow up and if there are exceptions, he will inform the membership. (CLOSED)

h. A member said that the base dental clinic was no longer accepting retirees and their families except for emergencies. Dave Barton said he would inquire at the hospital. Note that the next day, Dave did inquire and was told there was a temporary staff shortage at the dental clinic and once that is resolved routine appointments will be accepted. (CLOSED)

i. Dave Barton advised that the operating hours for the P.O.L. gate are Monday through Friday 0500-1900 and closed Saturday, Sunday, Holidays and Base Family Days. (CLOSED)

j. Joe Roginski advised that members should make sure their wills are specific enough that items like autos, real estate, and the like are clearly bequeathed to the beneficiary. The spouse of a recently passed retiree had great difficulty transferring the title of two autos to her name so she could dispose of them until the will was found to have specified the vehicles. Had it not, the Japanese DOV would have probated these items according to the laws of the state of residence of the deceased. (CLOSED)

k. Joe Roginski noted that the annual MAB Air show is coming up but that we must prepare now to decide if we would do a fund-raiser and how. The flea market and other options were discussed and the motion was made and passed that we would do a flea market and the MMRA leadership would apply for a stall independent of the meeting schedule because of time limitations. It was noted that the membership could decide to change or withdraw participation at a later date. Dave Barton and Chief Tinnirella emphasized the need for volunteer participation for the fund-raiser. (OPEN)

## 5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Dave Barton read the financial report which was accepted and approved by the membership present.

6. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1745. The treasurer announced that the next meeting will be on 7 June 2016 at 1700 in the Club Tohoku Gray Room.

///Signed///

Joseph Roginski, MSgt (Ret), USAF  
Secretary, Misawa Military Retirees' Association  
Director, Retiree Activities Office  
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