

1. If an eligible family member left Japan because of the emergency situation prior to the authorized departures, will they be entitled to reimbursement of any evacuation entitlements? Does the destination matter?

If the dependents leave prior to the authorized departure, all expenses up to the authorized departure date are at personal expense. If the dependents traveled to other than the authorized safe haven location, (OSD (P&R) is working with the State Dept to delegate approval authority to PACOM for alternate safe haven requests). If an alternate safe haven location is not approved, the dependents are paid Subsistence Expense Allowance (SEA) beginning the day the evacuation based on the lesser of the locality rate for the current location, original safe haven location or the standard CONUS rate (IAW JTR, chapter 6, Part C, par. 632.2)

2. What are the entitlements of US local hires in Japan under the voluntary departure? **U.S. local hires without a transportation agreement are not authorized evacuation allowances.**

612 Coverage

612.3 Locally Employed American Citizens Not Covered

These regulations do not apply to:

(1) Local U.S. citizens who do not have official GOV'T employment, including but not limited to Americans with private business or organizations, teachers recruited by local American supported schools, Fulbright grantees, and individuals with contracts to work for the foreign host government; or

(2) Locally hired American citizens who work for the GOV'T but who do not have an agreement for return transportation to the U.S. at GOV'T expense. JTR Vol 2, Ch 6: Evacuations and Adverse Conditions Part C: Pmts During an Ordered/Auth Departure from a Foreign Area/Section 3: DSSR, Ch 600, pars 612.

Those you are not eligible for departure transportation; Space-A flights available to those who didn't leave Japan under departure program.

Stars and Stripes, 31 Mar 11, Charlie Reed

<http://www.stripes.com/news/space-a-flights-available-to-those-who-didn-t-leavejapanunder->

[departure-program-1.139552# http://www.stripes.com/news/space-a-flights-availableto- those-who-didn-t-leave-japan-under-departure-program-1.139552](http://www.stripes.com/news/space-a-flights-available-to-those-who-didn-t-leave-japan-under-departure-program-1.139552#)

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Those who chose not to take part in the military's voluntary departure program are now allowed to travel in and out of the country on the popular spaceavailable flights from the three major Air Force bases in Japan and the Navy airstrip near Tokyo, according to military officials.

However, the roughly 7,000 U.S. military dependents who took the military-funded flights

out of Japan in the last few weeks are not authorized to use the Space-A program to re-enter the country, officials said. Those who left with the voluntary departure were issued State Department orders, which make them ineligible to then switch over to the military's Space-A system to come back to Japan, according to Beth Gosselin, a Yokota spokeswoman. Space-A flights were scheduled to leave Yokota throughout the day Thursday, some bound for Misawa and Kadena air bases in Japan, the military's Diego Garcia Island in the Indian Ocean and the city-state of Singapore. Because the paperwork for Space-A travel and the military's voluntary departure program are different, sorting out who does and does not qualify to fly at military

passenger terminals should be easy, officials said. Yokota – headquarters for the military’s massive humanitarian aid and relief operation in Japan – reinstated the Space-A flights after the dependent departures had slowed, Bryan said. Flights leaving Kadena Air Base on Okinawa bound for mainland Japan were still closed to Space-A travelers, base officials told Stars and Stripes Wednesday. Misawa Air Base in northern Japan, as well as Naval Air Facility Atsugi have also reopened

Space-A travel. Space-A travel gives members of the military community the chance to catch “hops” around the world on U.S. government aircraft. It works in an ordered hitch-hiker fashion, requiring military orders, leave forms and the time to wait for a ride that has room. The program is especially popular around the Defense Department school system’s spring break, which is set for April 8-17 this year. Most active-duty troops, military retirees and their dependents qualify for Space-A travel.

Some civilian Defense Department employees in the Pacific are allotted two flights per year as part of their government benefits package. Permanent-change-of-station moves to Yokota and Misawa air bases have been delayed in the aftermath of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami that killed thousands and left hundreds of thousands homeless, according to the Air Force.

Flights in and out of Yokota are non-stop as the home base for U.S. aid operations, both in the tsunami-ravaged northeastern coast and at the runaway nuclear power plant in Fukushima, 100 miles south of the wreckage, which was damaged in the earthquake.

If you have a military transportation agreement based on military service and/or retirement from military service and wish to enact that provision to leave Japan, you should contact

your transportation office. Be warned if you enact this agreement, you have forfeited your final return transportation based on military service agreement.

In the event of an all out evacuation of Japan, the Department of State has the State Department's Office of American Citizen Services and Crisis Management (ACS).

About ACS

The State Department's Office of American Citizen Services and Crisis Management (ACS) is here to assist you and your family whenever and wherever we can. We work with our overseas embassies and consulates to provide emergency services to Americans abroad.

We can help send money overseas to assist U.S. citizens, repatriate the remains of loved ones who have died, assist victims of crime, and help U.S. citizens who are detained in foreign prisons. ACS also administers a repatriation loan program to bring home destitute Americans.

We operate a 24-hour Duty Officer Program. We also work on task forces convened to deal with natural or man-made disasters.

CONTACT OVERSEAS CITIZENS SERVICES:

From within the U.S. 1-888-407-4747

From outside the U.S. 1-202-501-4444

3. If a DAC is also a family member dependent, is he/she entitled to depart as an eligible family member and will his/her pay still be paid, or will they have to take leave?

While the employee can depart as a family member, he/she will have to request annual leave since the individual is also an Army civilian employee. If the employee

does not have enough annual leave to cover his/her absence, advance annual leave can be requested. However, the maximum amount of annual leave that can be advanced is the amount of annual leave the employee will accrue for the remainder of the leave year. The employee can also request to telework or request leave without pay (LWOP).

4. If the safe haven is designated as the United States, may the dependents select an official safe haven anywhere in the fifty United States, the District of Columbia or any of the territories?

If the fifty U.S. and the District of Columbia are named in the evacuation authorization/order as the safe haven, an evacuee must select the exact safe haven location within the fifty U.S. and the District of Columbia to which traveling at GOV'T expense. The safe haven location is U.S., which includes Alaska and Hawaii for a civilian employee's family members. The JTR does not require an additional authorization for a civilian employee's family members to select Alaska or Hawaii as the safe haven location. Need to keep in mind that while the authorized safe haven for civilian employee's family members is the U.S. (50 states and DC), even after approved travel and transportation allowances are reimbursed NTE constructed cost to a selected safe haven within the U.S. and Subsistence Expense Allowance (SEA) is based on the lowest per diem of the location to which evacuated, official safe haven or standard CONUS rate (\$123 a day) . For alternate safe haven requests, see PACOM instructions at the following link:

http://cpol.army.mil/japan2011/docs/032911-SAFE_HAVEN_DelAuth.pdf

JTR Vol 2, Ch 6: Evacuations and Adverse Conditions Part A:

Evacuation Travel, C6015 SAFE HAVEN

Department of State Standardized Regulations (DSSR 631a(1))

Department of State Standardized Regulations (DSSR 632.2).

5. Can the DAC evacuee be furloughed during a government "shut-down" due to lack of funding?

Yes, an agency may furlough employees to include those that are under an "Authorized Departure" status or under an "Evacuation Order". Such an action places an employee in a non-duty, non-pay status for the duration of the furlough.

Yes, evacuees may be subject to Furlough.

6. If a newly assigned personnel was prohibited from proceeding to the PDS, will they be able to receive their pay as of their EOD?

If a candidate has been selected for a position in Japan and an enter on duty date (EOD) has been established but the person is "not" a current Federal employees (i.e. has not taken the Oath of Office / has not been officially appointed to the position) then he/she is not entitled to pay. If the candidate is a current Federal employee and he/she has an established enter on duty date, then the candidate should notify their losing Human Resources Office and advise them of their possible delay in reporting to their new duty assignment in Japan. The purpose of this is to prevent the losing activity from discontinuing the employee from their losing organization. The gaining and losing activities should attempt to renegotiate the employees release / enter on duty date. If the gaining HRO has not processed and released a New Hire package for the employee that was prohibited from proceeding to the new PDS, new pay data will not be established in DCPS and the gaining activity will not have access to the employees time and attendance record. In this case scenario the employee will not be paid. The losing activity however, will continue to

have access to the employee's time and attendance data in DCPS.

Would they be eligible for any evacuation entitlements?

Under the Foreign Transfer Allowance (FTR) authority, DSSR 245 does allow "equivalent benefits" to certain newly assigned personnel who are prohibited from proceeding to post. These equivalent benefits provide for payments as well as justified grace periods needed to return to post at the end of an evacuation and the lease penalty payment. (Additional guidance is available in the DSSR, please refer to FTA additional days Subsistence Expense for unusual circumstances).

7. Has a port of entry been designated for the evacuees?

*******AT THIS TIME - (APOD - Aerial Port of Debarkation) –HAVE SUSPENDED OPERATIONS*******

Current arrival locations (APOD - Aerial Port of Debarkation) have been established at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Travis Air Force Base, California, and Denver International Airport. The arriving families, including their pets are being met by military representatives from U.S. Army North, who help them with follow-on arrangements that could include temporary lodging, food and other support requirements.

8. Is there a difference between voluntary departure and evacuation? What are the differences in terminology as well as entitlements?

The correct terms are authorized and ordered departures.

What is the difference between an authorized and an ordered departure?

A: Authorized departure allows the chief of mission (principal officer in charge of a diplomatic mission in a foreign area) greater flexibility in determining which employee/employee groups may depart, and avoids the negative connotation attached to the term "evacuation." Since the law uses the terms synonymously, there is no benefit difference.

JTR VOI 2, Ch 6: Evacuations and Adverse Conditions Part C: Pmts During an Ordered/Auth Departure from a Foreign Area/ Section 4: DSSR, Ch 600 FAQs

9. We assume that a DAC currently on leave outside of Japan can telework at a CONUS/OCONUS location if authorized by his/her chain of command. If our assumption is incorrect, pls advise.

If the employee is no longer on leave status and there is work to be performed, with proper equipment and system security (if required), then an employee may telework upon approval by chain of command. However, if there is no signed telework agreement in place, one should be prepared as soon as practicable.

Link to Telework Agreement DD Form 2946:

<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd2946.pdf>

10. Activities such as the Corps of Engineers, who have a different funding stream and therefore excepted from the 30-day suspension on job offers, can continue recruitment and job offers can be made. Can their new employees who will encumber positions designated as emergency essential, be exempt from the Stop Order on new employees PCSing to Japan? It seems they would need the EE personnel in Japan.

In accordance with HQDA EXORD 142-11, Date Time Group: 182258ZMar 11, paragraph 3.E.3.C, The Commander USARJ has authority to ID soldiers and Civilians who are considered key and essential that will be considered exempt from this delay. Definition of Emergency Essential (E-E) as defined in DoDD 1404.10, dated 23 Jan 09: "A position-based designation to support the success of combat operations or the availability of combat-essential systems in accordance with section 1580 of title 10, United States Code ".

11. Any word if DACs will be included in the voluntary departure orders

At this time only Eligible Family Members (EFMs) of civilian employees are addressed in the voluntary authorized departure.

Could you explain the procedures, or direct us to policy guidance, on repatriation? Who is the lead in coordinating the effort? What is HR role? The JTR says employees who are at the safe havens can be asked to do work...how does this work?

*****AT THIS TIME THE JOINT REPATRIATION COORDINATION CENTERS (JRCC) HAVE SUSPENDED OPERATIONS*****

The Joint Repatriation Coordination Center (JRCC) is a joint operational cell established in the Pentagon by Department of the Army to support repatriation operations. Based on the magnitude of the evacuation, the JRCC will be activated and staffed at the call of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Army,G-1, the executing agent for repatriation for the Secretary of the Army. The JRCC has oversight of the entire repatriation operation, particularly to include the official DoD evacuees who process through the designated Repatriation Site(s). Additionally, the JRCC is responsible for ensuring that all DoD evacuees and families affected by the subsequent stop movement order receive adequate assistance and appropriate entitlements throughout the safe haven period. JRCC will coordinate orders, financial assistance, job assistance/job placement with parent organizations as required for respective stop movement families. An evacuated employee at a safe haven may be assigned to perform any work considered as necessary or required during the evacuation period without regard to the employee's grade or title. Failure or refusal to perform assigned work may be a basis for terminating further evacuation payments and/or taking disciplinary action. When a part-time employee, either regular or intermittent, is given assigned work at the safe haven, a record of the hours worked is maintained so that payment may be made for any hours of work that are greater than the number of hours on which payments under DSSR, Section 620 are made.

JTR , Vol 2, ,Ch 6: Evacuations and Adverse Conditions Part C: Pmts During an Ordered/Auth Departure from a Foreign Area/ Section 3: DSSR, Ch 600, para. 625 Work Assignments for an Evacuated Employee.

12. In the event of a furlough, what evacuation allowances would eligible family members and in the event of a ordered departure - civilian employees would be eligible for?

Employees who eligible for the allowance will be paid when there is an appropriation. They do not lose their eligibility because of the lack of an appropriation.

13. Since employees in Japan on LQA receive their LQA bi-weekly (unlike Koreawhere it's paid all upfront), could a possible furlough stop those payments or is LQA exempt? (I've heard that if a furlough occurs that we should not expect PA and LQA to be paid during a furlough, or that it will be paid retroactively.)

Employees will not receive any EFT while furloughed (except for Pay Period 27-09 April), so payments of PA/LQA will not be paid separately. Once the furlough is lifted employees will receive their Back entitlements of PA/LQA IAW the DSSR below guidance:

051.2 Employees in Non-Pay Status

All allowances granted under the DSSR regulations may continue during periods while the employee is in non-pay status not in excess of 14 calendar days at any one time. For periods in non-pay status longer than 14 calendar days, payments under allowance grants are to be suspended as of the day the employee enters the non-pay status, and payment is not to be made for any part of such period, unless otherwise specifically provided in these regulations. (See Section 132.2b(2).)

132.2 Continuance of Grant

The LQA grant may continue, provided the employee maintains and pays for his/her quarters at the post:

- a. not to exceed 60 calendar days during authorized leave with pay, plus transit time when leave is taken in the United States;
- b. when the head of agency determines that continuance of the grant would be in the public interest:

(1) up to an additional 60 calendar days beyond the 60 day period specified in Section 132.2a above;

(2) while the employee is in non-pay status not in excess of 30 calendar days at any one time. For periods in non-pay status longer than 30 calendar days, payment shall be suspended as of the day the employee enters such status, and payment is not to be made for any part of such period;