



SPECIAL IMMIGRATION ADVISORY ON JAPAN

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Code 16 POCs

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Subj: SPECIAL IMMIGRATION ADVISORY FOR THE EVACUATION OF U.S. PERSONNEL FROM JAPAN

This Advisory is issued to address many of the issues and questions from JAGs in the Japanese AOR regarding immigration and travel issues for family members of U.S. military personnel, U.S. government employees and their families, and other expats and their families.

U.S. TOKYO CONSULATE WEEKEND INFORMATION. As of COB today in Japan, the U.S. Embassy Passport Unit, American Citizen Services section (Tokyo only) states that they will be open on Saturday March 19, Sunday, March 20, and Monday March 21 in order to issue emergency passports to American Citizens. They will be open each day from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. There is no need for an appointment for these special weekend hours. They encourage applicants to please go to their website to make sure they bring all the required documents for issuance of a passport.

Please note: (Child Passports) All applicants under 16 must appear in person accompanied by both parents. For first passports for children born in Japan, you must report the child's birth before a passport can be issued. Here is information on the Consular Report of Birth Abroad. For more information, please see the U.S. Embassy's website at: <http://japan.usembassy.gov/e/acs/tacs-passports-weekend.html>

GENERAL INFORMATION ON TRAVEL AND IMMIGRATION ISSUES:

1. There is no "form" required to exit from Japan for U.S. citizens, U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR – green card holders), or Japanese Citizens as discussed below. However, all U.S.-bound individuals are required to have proof of their ability to enter the U.S. legally before they are allowed onto a U.S.-bound plane. So the penultimate question is: Does the individual have proper documents to board a plane and enter (be "admitted") to the U.S. legally once at a U.S. airport.

We understand from Department of State (DoS) contacts that DoS may relax their rules for U.S.-bound carriers to allow U.S. citizens without a U.S. passport to board with "best evidence" of U.S. citizenship status, U.S. LPR status, and Japanese Citizenship for dependant family members. ****This is anticipated but has not been officially confirmed by DoS.****

2. U.S. Citizens with U.S. passports should not have any issues returning to the U.S. U.S. service members can enter on their Military ID - if they cannot locate their U.S. passports. U.S. LPRS (green card holders) can enter with their LPR card and a valid

passport.

3. Japanese Citizens with Japanese passports are allowed to enter the U.S. as temporary visitors under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) and will be admitted for 90 days WITHOUT THE NEED FOR A VISITOR'S VISA.

USICS has announced that Japanese citizens present in the U.S. on VWP – will be granted 30 day extensions of their VWP period as they expire.

VWP registration. However, VWP visitors must register in advance in the ESTA system and pay a nominal fee of \$14. This is a prerequisite. The registration can be done online at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/>. I am hopeful that the Department of State will shortly waive this requirement for spouses/family of U.S. military/government workers due to the exigencies. However, I would not assume so. As time permits I would instruct family members to go online and register if feasible.

4. Citizens holding passports from the following 36 countries may also register on ESTA and be admitted to the U.S. on their passports under the VWP (without the need for a U.S. Visitor's Visa) for up to 90 days.

Currently, 36 countries participate in the Visa Waiver Program, as shown below:

Andorra Hungary New Zealand Australia Iceland Norway
Austria Ireland Portugal Belgium Italy San Marino
Brunei Japan Singapore Czech Republic Latvia Slovakia
Denmark Liechtenstein Slovenia Estonia Lithuania
South Korea Finland Luxembourg Spain France Malta Sweden Germany
Monaco Switzerland Greece the Netherlands United Kingdom

5. Non-U.S. Citizens/LPRS and NON-VWP citizens (i.e. Philippine nationals, etc.) need an appointment at a U.S. Consulate and a Visitor's Visa (B-1/2) issued to enter the U.S. At this time, the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo is only scheduling Visitor visa appointments for emergency cases. It is unclear whether U.S. military family members are considered emergent cases, however it is strongly recommend that visa acquisition be attempted.

As mentioned previously, the Department of State may allow U.S. military dependants and other U.S. government dependants (that are not U.S. citizens, not U.S. LPRs, or Non-VWP citizens) to enter on the "best evidence" of relationship to the U.S. military member (marriage and birth certificates) and will be allowed to enter the U.S. on "humanitarian parole" by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at U.S. airports.

Again if time permits, these classes of family members should attempt issuance of a Visitor's Visa (B-1/2) first.

If family members want to leave Japan and are NOT U.S. citizens, LPRS, Japanese or VWP citizens, it is strongly recommend they leave and return to their HOME nation and obtain a visitor's visa at the U.S. Embassy in their home country en route to the U.S. This will be faster and easier than attempting to have a visa issued at the U.S. Embassy that is minimally manned.

Updates for U.S. Embassy's services are available at www.usembassy.gov.

6. U.S. citizen children without proof of U.S. citizenship (no passport) should carry at least a birth certificate and proof of U.S. citizenship of at least one birth parent. There is NO provision for this - but CBP officers at U.S. airports can issue "Advance Parole" at the airport - allowing 30-90 days for the individual to come back to the airport with proof of U.S. citizenship. Once home, a U.S. parent should be able to obtain a U.S. passport with expedited services in most major cities.

As more information becomes available we will distribute.

7. Many thanks to CDR Matthew Lee, JAGC, USNR of NR Administrative Law for his expertise in drafting this IA. Please do not hesitate to contact the Code 16 Lead, LT Janelle Kuroda at (202) 685-4641 (DSN 325), janelle.kuroda@navy.mil. LT Kuroda can be reached for after-hours/weekend assistance on Japan immigration information at janellekuroda@gmail.com.