

Introduction of USFJ Employees

Introducing employees from different professions available at U.S. military bases throughout Japan



Counter Attendant

AAFES Okinawa Exchange Ms. Nakamura Marika

I support to improve the quality of life of the US Marines and their family members while they are stationed on Okinawa

I am a supervisor at a Taco Bell restaurant located on Camp Foster (also known as Camp Zukeran). We sell a wide variety of Mexican food items like Tacos, Nachos, Quesadillas, Burritos, etc. at Taco Bell, which is a very popular restaurant chain in the United States. Most of the people who visit our restaurant are regular customers, so we know what they are going to order before they even tell us. It is so fun to see the satisfaction of our customers when we provide accurate, delicious, quick and friendly service to them.

I have been working on base already 5 years. I started my career as an Hourly Pay Temporary Counter Attendant at the Taco Bell restaurant on Camp Hansen, which is another Marine Base located about an hour away from Camp Foster, right after I graduated from High School. I then took a Permanent part-time supervisory position at Hansen after 3 years. I just moved to Camp Foster Taco Bell recently since it is closer to my house.

There are many chances for development and promotions on American Bases. And working conditions, benefits and opportunities are the same for men and women. I am glad to be part of this organization and willing to continue my career here.



Fire Protection Inspector

COMMANDER NAVY REGION JAPAN • FIRE&EM SVC
YOKOSUKA OPS DIV

Ms. Miura Kaede

Safety is my primary concern as a Fire Inspector

The Fire Prevention Office conducts on-site inspections for all the buildings and facilities on Yokosuka naval base. Consecutively, we prepare inspection reports and conduct follow-up inspections as needed. In addition, we support fire prevention events on base and off base. Through the FIRE PREVENTION WEEK, we provide Fire Safety Educational Classes, Evacuation Drills and Fire Extinguisher Trainings for base employees, residents, students of educational institution. Sharing our knowledge with the community is one of the attractive points of this job. I feel fine and even more motivated when people express appreciation to us through our daily activities. This job requires us fine judgement, extensive knowledge and interpersonal communication skills. I would like to aim for Fire Prevention Environment to make people safe by helping each other within a community.



Fire Chief, Assistant (Shipboard)

COMMANDER NAVY REGION JAPAN • FIRE&EM SVC
YOKOSUKA OPS DIV

Mr. Karagishi Ichiro



The level of our rescue technology is world standard. Firefighting support for the aircraft carrier and battleships, as well.

I work as a drill master at the fire department belonging to Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka. Currently, I instruct the rescue techniques, fire fighting, emergency activities etc. to about 200 firefighters and rookies. In addition, we coordinate and arrange the contents of joint drills with the JSDF and the Japanese municipal fire departments with which we have mutual agreements in the neighborhood (a cooperative arrangement for large-scale disaster response).

Rookies are about to come to our fire department soon and a fire school is scheduled to open, so preparations are underway with the help of our firefighters. They are often surprised that Japanese are working for the fire departments located U.S. military base in Japan, but most firefighters are Japanese.

My supervisors are American citizens, so I have more opportunities to speak English at work. There are several decades since I graduated from schools. With helps of my co-workers, I am motivated to learn English actively, and I am doing my job every day.



Guard Supervisor

18th SECURITY FORCES SQ Mr. Miyagi Masatoshi

Work to contribute to the local community

The 18th Air Wing, at Kadena Base (known as a significant location (keystone) in the Pacific), plays an important role in the peacekeeping of the region.

I am proud of my work that enables me to contribute to the protection and safety of the base and to the creation of a peaceful environment for the local community along with the military police and the soldiers at Kadena Base.

After my experience working at the gate and on patrol, as supervisor of security guards, I am currently in charge of supervising and teaching including the nurturing of dozens of troops.

Earlier, I felt motivated to work when I used what I learned through training in practice and when I was thanked by people. But now I truly feel happy to be doing this job when I see junior employees doing their daily work well, enduring rigorous training, and growing daily.

In the future too, I would like to nurture many more young troop members through a lot of training and practice; to contribute to the community; and to foster human resources who can play an active role in protecting the peace of the Asia-Pacific region and the world.





Welder

MCAS IWA FAC.DEPT. FAC MAINT BR,OFF SM/W **Mr. Watanabe Goro**

Create a comfortable workplace

The Welding Plant of the Department of Facilities of the Iwakuni Base conducts welding-related work such as cutting and welding of iron pipes and steel plates; assembling and installing iron doors and rollers; and assembling and repairing pit covers, brackets, frames, and columns. My job (foreman) includes on-site supervision. I create work plans with the aim of ensuring that the work is carried out in a safe and secure manner.

In addition, we receive orders, check drawings and materials, and position suitable staff at the sites. Welding work is the primary duty in the factory. I think welding in which metal is bonded is the same as the characters a person writes, as it has the stamp of the individuality of each person, and it is interesting as one can come to know immediately who has performed the welding task.

When I became a welder, in the world of craftsmanship, the custom was to learn work through observation, but now the welders are young craftsmen and the workplace is a place which young people can easily join because knowledge and skills are taught in a kind and easy-to-understand manner. In the factory, we have a meeting of about five minutes before work every morning, and reinforce our aim of creating a safe workplace without any accidents. The precise goal is to create a safe and comfortable working environment.

* Foreman is the term used for supervisors engaged in skilled and labor work.



Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanic

NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND FAR EAST **Mr. Kato Masashi**

Even though the previous job was in a different field, I could rest assured that there is a training system in place

My main job is to install new air conditioning equipment, refrigeration and refrigeration equipment, repair, and perform preventive maintenance management for all facilities in the Sasebo base. All major buildings in the base are equipped with air-conditioning facilities, and if, by some rare chance, they stop operating, an emergency response is required as soon as possible.

We make full use of advanced technology, good teamwork, and hard work to investigate the cause and to repair quickly. When I get a word of thanks from the customers, it gives me a great sense of satisfaction.

Before I joined the job, I was engaged in work in a completely different field, and I was very anxious about whether I would be able to fulfill my duties. But, since this workplace is equipped with a training system, it was possible for me to acquire the necessary technical training programs and work diligently.

In the future, in addition to acquiring skills, knowledge, and technical qualifications, my main goal is to become one of the important pillars of the workplace as soon as possible, while also acquiring English skills.



Engineer

JED,PRG&PRJ MGT DIV **Ms. Tomblin Mika**

I feel a sense of satisfaction when the buildings are completed and handed over to the new occupants

We are responsible for establishing new construction of facilities on the base, which I am involved in from proposal to completion and handing over of the facilities.

As for new construction, each project takes about ten years to complete. A lot of negotiation and coordination are required to complete a project. I feel a great sense of satisfaction when the building has been finally constructed with a lot of time and effort, and when it is handed over to the new occupants.

Sometimes it is required to have telephone communications with the POCs over the several different time zones and I am still struggling with my English skills.

I would like to improve my English skills and do my best to coordinate in greater detail.





Janitor

CUSTDIAL SECD, BLDG&STRUCT BR,
OP&MAINT DIV

Mr. Akaishi Tatsuhiro



Well-cleaned facility provides me a sense of attachment and achievement.

I am engaged in cleaning work to include maintaining the cleanliness, orderliness, and hygiene of the facilities in Camp Zama and Sagami-hara Housing Area and providing a comfortable environment for the facility users.

In my assigned area, I clean the floors, the walls, and the ceilings of the buildings, vacuum, wipe glass surfaces, clean the blinds, collect garbage, clean toilets and shower rooms, and replenish supplies and more, and each task is rewarding to me. I feel a great sense of accomplishment and satisfaction when I see the restrooms, hallways, and other areas I clean become cleaner day by day.

I do my best to continue to provide a thorough cleaning service so that more users can feel comfortable using the facilities.



Forklift Operator

DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY,
PACIFIC AREA

Mr. Kurokawa Takeshi



We support the comfortable life of people who are stationed here.

I work as a Forklift Operator Foreman B at the U.S. Naval Base Commissary (supermarket) in Yokosuka. I work as a supervisor (foreman) for tasks such as receiving, storing, and shelving of goods.

The job involves the ability to use forklifts, product management, English language skills, and communication skills.

The Commissary store supports the comfortable life of the people who have been assigned to Japan from the United States.

We offer products from the United States including grocery items, sundries, Japanese food items, and we feel good that we are supporting the lives of the people on the base.

Especially in times of disaster such as typhoons and earthquakes, whenever I see customers who are relieved to get water and canned food, I feel how important our work is. There are a lot of excellent people in my workplace, all the employees work hard, and we keep on looking for improvements, and continue to devote ourselves to our work every day.

Together with everyone, I would like to create a store that is one step above and that makes everyone even happier.



Retail Store Manager

AAFES YOKOTA EXCHANGE Ms. Aihara Arisa

I want to keep on trying something new and step up by utilizing various US Forces' programs.

The reason why I decided to work at the United States Forces Japan Base was because US military families were very nice to me when I came to the Friendship Festival when I was a kid. I could not communicate at that time. But I started to be interested in different cultures since then, and when I had to make my decision as to what to do with my life, I decided to look for a job on the base.

My first job on the base was as a "Counter Attendant" at the U.S. Naval Air Facility Atsugi for about 3 years. I had great opportunities to work with people from many different countries, cultures and work at special specific Navy events, Navy Ball and Holiday Party.

As I became familiar with my status and position at work, I decided to look for advancement and came across the chance of Retail Shift Manager at AAFES at U.S. Air Force, Yokota Base.

This job entailed a totally different skills. When I started to work here, I struggled every day. Being in a position as a Shift Manager required the skills of time management, priority and communication skills with the team with other responsibilities.

AAFES has various curriculums. I had the opportunity to be selected to attend "Retail Management Academy Program" for 4 months, which broaden my perspectives in many different areas of the operation to help me with being a manager.

It was a great experience for me and I feel that these opportunities come across more inside the U.S. base. I will continue to take challenges to better and grow myself for any chance I have to step up.





Personnel Staffing Specialist

35 FSS/CIVILIAN PERSONNEL **Ms. Yoshida Miwako**



I find my workplace, which is directly influenced by an American atmosphere, to be worthwhile.

I am in charge of the hiring process for U.S. government employees in the civilian human resources department at Misawa Air Base. My major duties include the recruitment and hiring procedures for U.S. government employees who wish to work at Misawa; orientation for new staff; explanation of rules and duties that need to be known when working at Misawa; and introducing work opportunities to the families of service members. In my workplace I come in contact with diverse ways of working and thinking in the United States that are different from those in Japan and I also can learn a lot through my work. As the person in charge, seeing those who have applied get selected to work for a job they had been aspiring to and welcome their first day with a smile, is something that gives me great joy and happiness. In accordance with the changes in policies and various employment regulations of the United States, one may sometimes also participate in training conducted at other Air Force bases. It is a workplace that is very cherished and motivating as one can come in direct contact with the conditions of the United States while still being in Japan.

Misawa is located in northern Japan but I would like to make efforts so that people think of it as a place with has a comfortable working environment. I hope that a lot more people learn about the benefits of Misawa, so it becomes a base where people feel motivated to want to work here.



Clerk

G-4 Food Services Branch **Ms. Garrett Misato**



I support safety and health of diligent and hardworking Japanese National employees.

I am engaged in duties such as scheduling medical examination and training, requesting uniforms and protective clothing and base pass, processing personnel action requests, for Japanese National employees who work at Mess Hall (dining facility for military members) under Food Services Branch, G-4, Marine Corps in Okinawa. There are total 8 Mess Halls in Marine Corps bases, to which more than 360 Japanese National employees are assigned. Our most important duty is to provide delicious and safe meals with smile under hygienic environment. As such, we maintain high standard of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Plan. Although I am a Clerk, I encounter different situations daily from which I have a lot to learn. It is very friendly and fun working atmosphere. It requires English and basic computer skills as I need to communicate with Japanese National employees and military members. I would like to improve my skills, and at the same time enrich my private life with family and friends.



IT Specialist

HQ USARJ, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1 **Mr. Shioiri Takahiro**



I support the work and life of U.S. Service Members and their families in Japan.

I am engaged in IT support services in the human resources department of the U.S. Army Japan, and my work includes many different duties ranging from how to operate terminals to coping with system failures. In addition, in order to recruit a wide variety of people in the U.S. Army Japan, we also conduct recruitment by utilizing Social Networking Sites (SNS).

We are working to get nationwide recognition for the work of local national employees in the U.S. Army Japan.

Currently, we are in contact with the United States Forces Japan (USFJ) and the Japanese government human relations department, and participate in meetings with them, to coordinate the introduction of employment information for recruiting available on the internet and a recruiting system that utilizes the internet.

Finally we have automated all processes from recruiting information to hiring, to enable faster recruitment of new employees and provide support to the human resources department as IT professionals.

Local national employees support U.S. Service Members and their families in Japan to enable them to work and live comfortably in peace. I find it rewarding when they say, "I am glad I came to Japan. I would like to come back to Japan again.", and I would like to continue to provide higher quality services.



Dental Hygienist

3D DENTAL BATTALION **Ms. Kamiunten Yukari**



Making the most of my previous work experience.

Patients (primarily military personnel) are required to have a dental checkup once a year and, in accordance with the doctor's instructions, I clean the teeth of about seven to eight people a day.

Before working at the base, I was doing the same job (that of a dental hygienist) in the private sector, and when I returned to work after getting married and having a child, I was recruited as a dental hygienist at the base that I had applied for and started working again. When patients, who were not in a good condition initially, say "thank you" with a smile on their faces upon seeing improvements after several cleanings (after a lot of time and effort have been expended), I feel greatly rewarded.

Anyone who wants to be an employee at the base, who is interested in American culture, and who wants to develop diverse ways of thinking, should definitely take on this challenge.

I am sure one will be able to learn about one's strengths while working.

● You can obtain other job information on LMO website.

<https://www.lmo.go.jp/recruitment/index4.html>

