Balancing Work and Family Life

MOD and the USFJ have been making efforts for the employees to balance their work and personal lives. Now we introduce a male employee who acquired Child Care Leave.

USAF Kadena Air Base
18th Civil Engineer Squadron
Fire Alarm Dispatcher

Mr. Ota Yasutaka

At present, what kind of work do you do?

I work as a fire operator. We dispatch necessary emergency vehicles for urgent response to the aircraft taking off and landing from/on Kadena Air Base, firefighting activity on base and emergency incidents of servicemembers and civilians on and off base (including local people on base).

Balancing work and family life

I took Child Care Leave for 60 days as my 3rd child was born. As I have never taken Child Care Leave before, I could spend valuable time seeing my child grow every day and experiencing difficulty of childrearing and housework.I appreciate that my supervisor approved my leave readily even though we work in shifts.
Though we work in shifts and have night duty and the actual work day is long, I feel fulfilled that I have enough holidays and time to spend with my family.

Advice to who intends to be an USFJ employee

As we often work with US civilians and servicemembers on base, it may be pleasant for those who like to utilize their language proficiency and those who like to be familiar with different culture.
Moreover, enhancing one's skill enables one to switch to various jobs, it is worth challenging in this workplace.

Camping with family

One Shift Schedule (one shift in Night Duty) * There also is a shift in daytime.

Get up and have breakfast with family	Share housework	Play with children	Exercise	Lunch	Sleep	Take a bath with children	Have a dinner with family	Commute	Mail check and respond to emergency call	Break	Respond to emergency call	Return home
7:00 8:00 9:00			11:00	12:00 13:00		18:00	18:30	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00 8:00	9:00

Hourly Pay Temporary Employment (HPT) System

You can become a permanent employee by making use of the working experiences as HPT!! It is a perfect part-time job opportunity for those studying English in college! You can practice English conversation while working!!

HPT employees exist as a form of employment only in the IHA and are employed for not to exceed 1 year to do temporary duties or to support permanent employees.

Leave Annual Leave, Child Medical Care Leave, etc. is granted.

Job Title Counter Attendant, Cook, Sales Clerk, etc.

Employment Period The employment period is not to exceed one year. (The total employment period counting from the date of initial hire does not exceed three years.)

Workplace Retail stores or food courts at US bases

Comments from HPT Employees

Counter Attendant (30's)
I enjoy meeting young co-workers while I raise my child.

Counter Attendant (20's)
I could break through a psychological barrier particular to Japanese people and enhance my communication skill.

Janitor (60's)
There is a system that recognizes employees 4 times a year and appreciate the accomplishment of us working behind the scenes, I feel worth working.

Customer Service Clerk (50's)
It is easier to take leave here than in Japanese companies.

Sign Machine Operator (40's)
It is possible to select work hours flexibly. As there are various job titles on base, if one feels "This job is unsuitable for me," it is possible to shift to another job!

Sales Checker (60's)
"America in Japan" is to the point! There are active exchanges beyond age, gender and national origins.

Child Development Program Trainee (40's)
I am pleased to learn American culture and approach the children of native English speakers as I communicate with the children every day.
I feel improvement of my English proficiency more than ever!

Hotel Desk Clerk (20's)
I had difficulties at first as I had little experience in English conversation, but I learned gradually through support from my co-workers.
I will do my best to improve myself.

Counter Attendant (40's)
It is possible to work at favorable work hours for both my family and my own career path.

Counter Attendant (50's)
Welcoming customers at the friendship festival is one of my favorite duties.