

# Introduction of USFJ Employees

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

## US Marine Corps Camp Foster Counter Attendant Food Outlet Manager AAFES OKINAWA EXCHANGE Ms. Tomoko Okuma

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

I am currently working as the Spot Food Court Manager located on Camp Foster (also known as Camp Zukeran). The Spot Food Court consists of Pizza Hut, Subway, Einstein Bros Bagels, and Baskin Robbins which are very popular restaurant chains in the United States and throughout the world. I am also a trainer for Pizza Hut Basic Management Training Program for Okinawa and an instructor/trainer for Servsafe, which is nationally recognized for restaurant sanitation standards. I really enjoy my job, and I mostly enjoy interacting with the US Marine community and seeing the satisfaction of our customers by bringing them a taste of home, since they are so far away from the United States.

I have been working on base for 20 years. I started as an hourly pay temporary sales associate at Camp Foster's Main Store and was hired by the Exchange as a Regular Part Time Counter Attendant at Camp Foster's Burger King and eventually promoted to supervisor then to Concept Manager. I was also Foster's Taco Bell Manager, Kinsler's Food Court Manager, and Olympic Food Court Manager.

I have had many advancement opportunities within the Exchange for which I am grateful. I am happy to be part of the Exchange and looking forward to continue serving the military community.



## U.S. Fleet Activities, Yokosuka 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 (Shipboard) COMMANDER NAVY REGION JAPAN-FIRE&EM SVC YOKOSUKA OPS DIV Mr. Karagishi Ichiro

**World-class rescue technology and battleship fire response**

I work for Commander Navy Region Japan, Fire Department as a Fire Chief at Yokosuka Navy Base. I am always aware that I am in a position of responsibility as a supervisor in the daily operations, scheduling, personnel transfers, emergency dispatches, and all other aspects of my subordinate firefighters. In addition to the Yokosuka district, the Kanto region includes the Ikego, Negishi, Atsugi, Sasebo, and Okinawa districts, with 15 fire stations throughout Japan, employing over 400 personnel. The members frequently conduct firefighting and emergency response activities, as well as joint training based on a mutual agreement (an arrangement whereby both parties cooperate in responding to major disasters) with neighboring Japanese city fire departments. Firefighting support to the 7th Fleet is also an important part of our work, and we conduct more than 30 fire response drills per year with destroyers, cruisers, and aircraft carriers of the 7th Fleet, learning from the fire that broke out on the battleship USS Bon Homme Richard in San Diego in July 2020. Those who are unfamiliar with U.S. military bases are often surprised to learn that Japanese nationals serve in the fire brigade at U.S. Navy bases. My supervisor is American, so I have many opportunities to speak English. I am not very good at it, so with the help of those around me, I am motivated to learn English and find my work rewarding every day!



## Kadena Air Base 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.



## Iwakuni Air Base 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.



## U.S. Fleet Activities, Sasebo 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.



## Camp Zama 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.



**U.S. Army Garrison Japan** Directorate of Public Works (DPW)  
Fire Alarm System Maintenance Man - Helper Trainee Mr. Akaishi Tatsuhiro



**Ensuring the safety of all facility users is our responsibility.**

We are responsible for maintaining and managing automatic fire extinguishing systems at various facilities within Camp Zama and Sagamiara Housing Area. In accordance with the strict regulations of the U.S. military, we conduct inspections and manage a wide range of equipment, including fire sprinklers, pumps, kitchen systems, gas extinguishing systems, and both indoor and outdoor fire hydrants. Additionally, we monitor water levels in storage tanks and manage various inspection devices, tools, and consumables. Our mission is to ensure the safety of everyone who uses these facilities. With that responsibility in mind, we approach each task with dedication and find great fulfillment in our work. To provide a safe and secure environment, we strive to carry out our duties with care every day, comfortable using the facilities.



**U.S. Fleet Activities, Yokosuka** 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.



**Yokota Air Base** 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.



**Misawa Air Base** Water Analyst  
35CES/CEOIU, Water Analysis Laboratory, Water Systems Maintenance Ms. Hashimoto Hiroko



**Striving for a safe and secure living environment.**

I conduct water quality analysis of drinking water and wastewater for Water System Maintenance Section, Misawa Air Base. At Misawa Air Base, we supply drinking water to the community on-base, using water sources adjacent to the base, such as groundwater and lake water. The process of making the water safe to drink is closely connected to the natural world and is influenced by seasonal weather and the surrounding natural environment. To provide safe drinking water, our daily operations involve adjusting the quantity of water inflow, chemical feeds, etc. Similarly, with regard to wastewater discharge, we process the wastewater generated from each housing unit and workplace, based on effluent standards, in a manner that does not cause environmental pollution, considering the impact on the natural environment. At the Water Analysis Laboratory, we conduct water quality analysis by sampling drinking water and wastewater from field sites at each process and check to ensure effective operation. In water quality analysis duties which require various knowledge and skills, we all work together and make good and smooth coordination and cooperation not only with fellow Water Analysts but also with other workers in the section such as Water Plant Operators, Sewage Disposal Plant Operators, etc., striving for a safe and secure living environment for the community on-base.

**Camp Zukeran (Foster)** Personnel/Manpower Coordinating Clerk  
G-4 Food Services Branch Ms. Miyagi Misato



**Striving to create a harmonious work environment.**

I am engaged in duties such as requesting base pass, personnel actions, recordkeeping the work schedule, and administration for Japanese National employees who work under Motor Transport Branch, G-4, Marine Corps in Okinawa. Our division has branches at Camp Hansen, Camp Foster, and Camp Kinser to which more than 200 Japanese National employees are assigned. The main roles of Motor Transport Branch are to provide the logistics support such as transporting supplies, equipment, and heavy machinery; vehicle lease service; safe transport support for Marines from base to base; and maintenance and repair of non-combat vehicles. Japanese National employees working this division are highly motivated on daily basis. Because the work involves handling of vehicles, Japanese employees working here are highly motivated on daily basis. As I am being a clerk, I try to communicate actively with drivers and mechanics, so that the entire workplace can communicate well with each other. This is where I can feel joy and pride of working at the forefront of US-Japan friendship. As I have just transferred from other division, I have opportunity to learn new things. I would like to spend every day to the full to contribute to this division with the knowledge that I have acquired through my work experience as well as to improve my own skills at this division.

**Camp Zama** 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.

**Camp Hansen** 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/syokuba\\_hatarakikata/recruitment04.html](https://www.lmo.go.jp/recruitment/syokuba_hatarakikata/recruitment04.html)

