



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



March 19, 2011

Japan Disaster Response ~ Personnel Update

"Our Sailors and their families need our support. We must not waiver in our commitment to them during this difficult time."

– Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, Chief of Naval Personnel

In response to the magnitude-9 earthquake and subsequent tsunami that struck Japan March 11, the Secretary of the Navy, in consultation with Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, has [authorized departure](#) of [eligible family members](#) from the island of Honshu, Japan to a designated safe haven identified by the Department of State (DoS). [NAVADMIN 093/11](#) has been released to define [personnel support](#) and potential entitlements and allowances.

Authorized Departure of Eligible Family Members

- The DoS designated safe haven is the continental United States. Hawaii and Alaska may be approved on a case-by-case basis.
- Dependents must designate their specific safe haven location in the United States upon, or prior to, entry to the U.S. Once designated, the safe haven cannot be changed.
- Once a location is chosen, dependents of uniformed personnel will be processed for safe haven allowances.

Entitlements and Allowances

- Allowances are based on individual circumstances of command sponsored dependents and may [include transportation](#), per diem, limited unaccompanied baggage shipment, pet shipment and family separation allowance. The list of allowances is not all inclusive. Sailors are encouraged to contact their local disbursing officer or Personnel Support Detachment to obtain information specific to their circumstances.
- Although shipment of privately owned vehicles is not authorized as part of this evacuation, a \$25/day, per family, local travel allowance may be authorized to partially off-set the expenses incurred for required local travel at the safe haven.
- Sailors are strongly encouraged to keep all receipts and records pertaining to evacuation.
- With the dynamic nature of this evacuation, families submitting claims now to the Office of the Judge Advocate General for lost or damaged property may be doing so prematurely. However, if a family member believes a claim is warranted at this time, visit www.jag.navy.mil for more information.

Medical Benefit Information

- TRICARE Overseas Prime beneficiaries may be unable to access their usual sources of medical care and pharmacy services. To compensate, TRICARE is establishing a waiver of the usual referral requirements in order to ensure access to health care and medications, and to prevent enrollees from incurring point of service charges.
- The TRICARE waiver is effective from March 11, 2011 until midnight on June 30, 2011, with the option for extension based upon an analysis of the situation at that time.

Key Messages

- America's Navy is committed to [Operation Tomodachi](#) and supporting our longtime ally.
- The voluntary departure order will not draw our assets from the vital relief operation being carried out in support of the government of Japan.
- The safety and security of our Sailors, civilians and family members remain a top priority.
- All Sailors or family members who are in need of assistance should utilize the NFAAS support site at <https://www.navyfamily.navy.mil>

Facts & Figures

- For TRICARE beneficiary information visit: <http://www.tricare.mil/tsunami>
- For questions on personnel matters related to the disaster in Japan should visit the [Commander Navy Personnel website](#) or call the Navy Emergency Coordination Center at 1-877-414-5358.
- For questions regarding allowances, travel advances or travel vouchers, Sailors should contact the Travel Processing Center-Hampton Roads, VA (TPC-HR) to obtain information specific to their circumstances at (866) 239-0303 or by fax at (866) 708-6985.