



August 10, 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR RETIREES

Minutes of the August 2026 bi-monthly membership meeting of the Misawa Military Retirees' Association (MMRA).

1. The meeting was held on Tuesday, August 4th at 1700 in the Gray Room of the Consolidated Open Mess. Joe Roginski was late so Paul Sayles read the minutes of the June 2026 meeting which were approved and accepted.
2. Officers present: President-Paul Sayles, Vice President-Gary Grishaver, Treasurer-Dave Barton, and Secretary-Joe Roginski.
3. Purpose: Bi-monthly general membership meeting to inform the membership of matters pertaining to the operations of the Association, and to canvass the membership on matters of concern in operation of the Association, and any issues pertaining to living in Japan, living and working in and around Misawa Air Base.
4. Members present: 18, including officers.
5. Special Reports:
 - a. Lee Martin gave a recap of the upcoming changes in the Japan Immigration system slated to take effect In October of this year. Lee described changes that consist of raised fees and eligibility changes for persons seeking permanent residence in Japan. He also said these changes will mostly apply to new applicants not current residents. Lee said the full article will be placed in the next newsletter.
 - b. Gary Grishaver reported that MSgt Belasio (sic) came to the office to ask about our participation in the POW/MIA run on 17 and 18 September (which has become an annual event) that is held in conjunction with the annual POW/MIA retreat which we usually attend and we will solicit members to make a formation.
 - c. Dave Barton reported on the recent rumored changes for retiree appointment and prescription access with the Med Group. Dave met with Chief Myers, the Senior Enlisted at the Medical Group, who Dave quoted as saying "they were working strategic messaging concerning manning shortages that said they have to place a higher priority on active duty for the next few months due to PCS season, etc. and are not considering retired and family as 'space available' as we do other categories such as civil service and contractors. Active duty comes first, then active duty dependents, then retirees, so scheduling should not be impacted or be differentiated from these three populations. Another consideration is that the MHS application is not allowing appointments and refills, showing zero appointment possibilities, although retiree appointments have never made a huge impact on appointments if the appointments are available on MHS, then retirees and dependents should be able to fill those open appointments. Then, being told at the front desk that retirees cannot make appointments period is a huge issue. Many retiree appointments are with the internal medicine provider who wants to see them at least twice a year, and here the doctor shortage issue is understood. We are tracking all and we are on the same page and working through it (illegible word) was not approved by the group leadership and blindsided us as well." Dave said Chief Myers assured him this issue is being worked and to let everyone know at the

next MMRA meeting. Dave added that that day he had tried to get prescription refills on MHS and the system showed he had no medications loaded or available. The Chief assured us that “retirees will not have any limits in scheduling with or getting support with the MDG. Please be patient with us while we work through our manning shortages that are causing us to shift some resources around to enable our team to meet our active duty readiness. I truly apologize for the turmoil this has caused.” Dave added that although the MHS is not working, you can still get refills at the pharmacy window, and the appointment line should still be able to schedule appointments. Paul added that you can still call in your refills using the refill phone number. Lee added that telephone consults are also still available. (Note: This will be an open item in ‘New Business’ in the minutes.)

- d. Joe Roginski commented that his provider had submitted two referrals. He picked up the referrals at the referral management office but they would not designate the referrals to any specific hospital and told him to take them to a hospital of his choice. They only gave him the referrals in English, not Japanese. He said the patient referral office gave him a list of translators to get the referrals translated. Joe said he did not feel like spending big bucks and time getting the referrals translated and he did it himself and it was easier than he expected. He said he now has templates and if anyone else gets a referral that needs to be translated and is not in a rush, he will do it for free. (Note: Joe will make the template available to Bill Tuttle, also in the RAO, who also is proficient in Japanese.) Joe said he took his referrals to Misawa City Hospital and the Hachinohe Aomori Rosai Hospital where they were readily accepted. (Note: this will also be an open item.)
6. Old Business - The constitution process is mostly complete. A copy was made available to members at the meeting. Paul Sayles announced that the legal office basically established a ‘boiler plate’ constitution for all private organizations. Our rewrite had to put duties of officers, voting, funding, etc., into their format. We also updated our by-laws. A member asked if medically retired persons were eligible, and Paul replied that we would accept ‘retired’ as retired. Paul asked for a motion to accept and approve our constitution and by-laws. A motion was made and passed. Paul announced that our member-approved constitution will now be presented to base legal for final approval. (Open)
7. Financial Report – Treasurer Dave Barton gave the report this meeting for the period 4 June to 4 August, today. Beginning balance of \$7,230.23. Income: MMRA dues \$40, account dividends \$0.12. Total income of \$40.12; Expenses: Club bill for this August meeting of \$178.20, Total expenses \$178.20. Widows Fund stands at \$5,044.44, General Fund is \$2,047.71. Ending balance \$7,092.15. Motion to approve was made and carried.

At 1743, a motion was made and approved to adjourn. Paul Sayles announced the next meeting to be held on October 6, 2026 at 1700 in the club Gray Room.

PAUL SAYLES

President Name

President Signature

JOSEPH ROGINSKI

Secretary Name

Secretary Signature