

BY ORDER OF THE
COMMANDER

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES FORCES, JAPAN
USFJ INSTRUCTION 40-104



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Medical Command

USFJ Air Quality Awareness Program

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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PURPOSE: To outline the basic requirements for the US Forces Japan Air Quality Awareness Program (AQAP).

SUMMARY OF CHANGES: NA

1. Scope. This instruction is applicable to all US services operating in Japan.

2. General. Approximately 100,000 US Forces personnel are potentially exposed to poor air quality from naturally occurring and man-made phenomena.

2.1. Naturally Occurring Hazard: Dust and sandstorms are a phenomenon of wind borne soil and mineral particles being raised thousands of meters into the air in the arid and semi-arid regions in China from places such as the Taklamakan and Gobi deserts and the Loess Plateau. The dust and sand is then transported to Japan by prevailing westerlies where it falls to the ground. The dust and sand particles are very fine particulate resulting in deep penetration of the lungs presenting a hazard to sensitive populations.

2.2. Man-made Industrial Air Hazards: Rapid industrialization in major cities in the northeast Asian region has resulted in increased fine particulate (PM2.5) air pollution. These particles are very fine resulting in deep penetration of the lungs presenting a hazard to sensitive populations.

3. Program Design.

3.1. This is a three tier program focused on individual education, air quality monitoring and notification, and seasonal public service announcements. The end-state is for service members, DOD civilians, and family members to be knowledgeable of risks and make informed decisions regarding activities on poor air quality days.

3.1.1. *Individual Education.* Services will develop a basic education program targeted at new arrivals to educate service members, DOD civilians, and family members about the source of poor air quality, the hazard presented to their health, and appropriate countermeasures. Material and subject matter expertise to assist in creating a training program will be made available through the USFJ Public Health Working Group (PHWG) (Air Quality Sub-working group).

3.1.2. *Air quality monitoring and notification.* Leveraging relevant Government of Japan monitoring systems, installations monitor appropriate GOJ air quality stations and provide timely and accurate notification to their populations. Subject matter expertise from the USFJ PHWG (Air Quality Sub-working group) will assist installations as needed to develop monitoring plans. (Air Quality Sub-working group).

3.1.2.1. Method and frequency of notification is left to the installation’s discretion.

3.1.2.2. Installations will use the following chart developed by Joint PHWG when making assessments. Note: the chart combines relevant USG and GOJ advisory standards.

24-hr Average PM _{2.5} Level (µg/m ³)	Color Code	Early Morning Hourly PM _{2.5} Level (µg/m ³)	Recommended Guidance
0-35.9	Green	0-54.9	Normal outdoor activities
36.0-69.9	Amber	55.0-84.9	Persons with diagnosed cardio or respiratory sensitivities should consider reducing prolonged or heavy outdoor activity
>70.0	Red	>85	All personnel should consider minimizing prolonged outdoor activity. Person with diagnosed cardio or respiratory sensitivities should remain indoors where possible

3.1.3. *Seasonal Public Service Announcements (PSA).* Installations provide timely, accurate, and coordinated PSAs to sustain knowledge of the threat, air quality index, and appropriate counter-measures.

3.1.3.1. USFJ, working through the Joint PHWG – Japan will develop baseline PSAs for adoption by services and installations.

3.1.3.2. Development and delivery of the type of public service announcements is at the installation and services discretion based on local conditions and resources.

4. References.

4.1. USPACOM INSTRUCTION 0530.1 15 December 2014

4.2. United States Forces Japan PHWG Charter, 8 April 2013.

- 4.3. US EPA National Ambient Air Quality Standards; <http://www.epa.gov/air/criteria.html>
- 4.4. Technical Assistance Document for Reporting of Daily Air Quality; <http://www.airnow.gov/>
- 4.5. Environmental Quality Standards in Japan; <http://www.env.go.jp/en/air/aq/aq.html>
- 4.6. Report of the Expert Meeting on Fine Particulate Matter, February 2013;
http://www.env.go.jp/air/osen/pm/info/attach/rep_20130227-main.pdf
- 4.7. USFJ Air Quality Awareness Paper;
<http://www.kadena.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-140501-003.pdf>



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