

1 August 2001



Law

SIGNING OF STATEMENTS WRITTEN IN JAPANESE

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

OPR: USFJ/J06 (Mr. Thomas J. Perham) Certified by: USFJ/J06 (Col Dwight D. Creasy)
Supersedes USFJ Policy Letter 110-7, 2 December 1985 Pages: 2
Distribution: A

This instruction establishes procedures under the provisions of Article XVII of reference 4.1, in which the military authorities of the US have agreed to assist the authorities of Japan in the carrying out of all necessary investigations into offenses.

This instruction is applicable to all U.S. organizations and persons in Japan under the provisions of under Article I and Article XIV of the Status of Forces Agreement (hereinafter SOFA) (reference 4.1).

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

This instruction is substantially rewritten to improve clarity and to redraft it in instruction format.

1. Purpose

This instruction is intended to protect US Forces personnel who are asked to sign statements written in a language which they do not understand.

2. Procedures

2.1. Whenever interrogated by Japanese authorities in an official investigation, US Forces, Japan personnel should render all assistance necessary, but they are not required to make statements, either oral or written, which may tend to incriminate them.

2.2. Because of the vagaries of interpretation and translation of a foreign language, any statement voluntarily made by such persons and reduced to writing should not be signed unless the person so interrogated reads and understands the language in which the statement is written.

2.3. US Forces, Japan personnel should also refrain from signing petitions and similar documents for public use which are written in a language which they do not understand.

3. Responsibilities

3.1. All US Forces, Japan personnel, as defined in Article I and Article XIV of reference 4.1, have a duty to cooperate with the military authorities in the enforcement of the provisions of the Status of Forces Agreement.

3.2. Service Commanders will bring the contents of this instruction to the attention of all personnel.

4. References

4.1. Agreement Under Article VI of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security Between the United States of America and Japan, Regarding Facilities and Areas and the Status of United States Armed Forces in Japan

4.2. Minutes of the 92nd Meeting of US-Japan Joint Committee, 3 June 1954, paragraph 7e and Inclosure 5.

// Signed //
GARY H. HUGHEY
Major General, U.S. Marine Corps
Deputy Commander