HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES FORCES, JAPAN
APO AREA PACIFIC 96328-5068

26 November 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, III MEF
COMMANDER, SEVENTH FLEET
COMMANDER, MARFORJ
COMMANDER, CNFJ
COMMANDER, USARJ
COMMANDER, FIFTH AIR FORCE
DEPUTY COMMANDER, U.S. FORCES JAPAN
COMMANDERS OF TENANT UNITS IN JAPAN
ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL IN JAPAN

FROM: COMUSJAPAN

SUBJECT: Liberty Policy for All U.S. Military Forces Located and Operating in Japan

1. AUTHORITY & BACKGROUND:

a. IAW USPACOM INST 3020.2L and COMUSPACOM memorandum, "Authority to Set Country-Wide Liberty/Pass Policies for US Forces Located and Operating in Japan," dated 30 Oct 12, the following liberty policy is established, effective 9 December 2014.

b. This liberty policy rescinds COMUSJAPAN memorandum, "Liberty Policy for All U.S. Military Forces Located and Operating in Japan," dated 29 May 2013. The previous policy is revised in five substantive ways: 1) removes the Okinawa-specific provisions, thereby equalizing the policy across Japan; 2) changes the curfew period for E-5 and below to 0100-0500; 3) reduces the grade requirement of authorized commander to O-4 and higher and grants them the authority to both implement and rescind unit denial of liberty, in addition to the authority to grant individual, event-by-event exceptions of limited duration to curfew and liberty buddy requirements; 4) changes the applicability of the liberty buddy provisions to all military personnel in the grades of E-5 and below who are in a TDY/TAD, leave, or pass status in Japan, or who are deployed to Japan (except those deployed on orders to Japan for 150 days or more as part of a unit deployment); it is not applicable to military personnel permanently assigned on Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders in Japan; and 5) changes the liberty buddy period to 2200-0500.

c. This policy is applicable to all military personnel located and operating in Japan who are subject to CDRUSPACOM authority, including Reserve personnel (when serving in a Reserve capacity), National Guard personnel (when in a Title 10 status), and personnel in a TDY/TAD, deployed, leave, or pass status. This policy is effective on 9 December 2014 and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded, pending further assessment of the operational environment in Japan.

2. PURPOSE:

a. In order to safeguard the vital relationship we have with Japan, bolster military readiness, and more efficiently meet our obligations under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, which increases U.S. ability to defend Japan and provide regional stability, the following measures are necessary. These core values-based restrictions are intended to promote good order and discipline and reinforce standards of conduct, particularly with respect to behavior outside of military installations in Japan.

b. This memorandum serves to create a uniform liberty policy across all commands in Japan. USFJ component commanders and senior operational commanders in Japan shall incorporate this direction into local regulations and orders. Nothing in this memorandum prohibits authorized commanders from imposing further restrictions or additional measures as deemed lawful and necessary due to mission requirements. "Authorized commander" is defined in the Attachment to this memorandum.

3. REQUIREMENTS:

a. Training Prerequisite: Before any military member is granted liberty off-installation, the member must have completed (1) Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Training (IAW Service-specific instructions and Department of Defense Directive 6495.01) and (2) Japan Indoctrination Training (USFJI 36-2811) with added emphasis on Service Core Values within the past 12 months. Responsible Drinking Training should also be conducted IAW the direction and timelines set forth in COMUSJAPAN memorandum, "Responsible Drinking Training," dated 31 July 2014. USFJ component commanders and senior operational commanders in Japan must document and may tailor the training as appropriate, but where possible, "in-person" training should be conducted. For other individuals (*i.e.*, CONUS personnel who are in Japan in TDY/TAD or leave status), training may be conducted electronically.

b. Off-Installation Public Consumption of Alcohol: For all military personnel, regardless of grade, off-installation public consumption of alcohol is prohibited between 2400 and 0500 (on all days, including holidays). Public consumption of alcohol is any consumption of alcohol off of a military installation, except when in an off-installation residence, quarters, or hotel room.

c. Curfew: Military personnel, including those who are in a TDY/TAD, deployed, leave, or pass status in Japan, in the grade of E-5 and below, are subject to curfew between the hours of 0100 and 0500. Military personnel in other grades are not subject to curfew, unless otherwise directed by their authorized commander. During curfew hours, military members subject to curfew must either be (1) on a U.S. military installation; (2) off the installation in a private residence; (3) in a place of lodging (hotel); or (4) in the performance of official duties (including duty-related/commute travel between an off-base residence and place of duty). Authorized commanders may grant curfew exceptions of limited duration on an individual, event-by-event basis for specific circumstances. Grade-based blanket exceptions are not authorized.

d. Liberty Buddy Program:

(1) A "liberty buddy" program is established. Except as noted below, this program is applicable to all military personnel in the grades of E-5 and below who are in a TDY/TAD, leave, or pass status in Japan, or who are deployed to Japan. It is not applicable to military personnel permanently assigned on Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders in Japan or to personnel deployed on orders to Japan for 150 days or more as part of a unit deployment. For those personnel subject to the liberty buddy program, the following liberty buddy restrictions apply:

(2) From 2200 to 0500 hours, if off-installation in Japan, such personnel must be accompanied by a liberty buddy. [Note: the liberty buddy provisions do not alter the curfew provisions in paragraph (c). The liberty buddy provisions are effective during designated non-curfew hours (2200 to 0100) and also during designated curfew hours (0100 to 0500), if an authorized commander previously approved a curfew waiver, per paragraph (c) above.]

(a) Such personnel may transit unaccompanied directly between their authorized place of lodging/hotel and a military installation or between military installations.

(b) For such personnel who are picking up or dropping off their liberty buddy at the liberty buddy's authorized place of lodging/hotel, they may travel unaccompanied directly from/to their own authorized place of lodging/hotel.

(3) A liberty buddy may be: (a) an active duty military member; (b) another person with SOFA status (for example, a spouse, accompanied family member, or a U.S. DoD civilian employee); (c) other family members; or (d) another responsible individual, including a non-U.S. national, who has been approved by an authorized commander.

(4) Authorized commanders may grant individual, event-by-event exceptions of limited duration to this liberty buddy policy for specific circumstances. Grade-based blanket exceptions are not authorized.

(5) Authorized commanders may impose more restrictive buddy policies, as deemed lawful and necessary due to mission requirements.

e. Other Provisions: This policy does not exempt compliance from other requirements, including host nation laws. Additionally, military personnel are prohibited from going to "off-limits establishments" as determined by the Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board Process (or otherwise authorized authority).

f. Unit-Wide Recall (Denial of Liberty): When an individual breaks the rules, it raises concerns of systemic issues --- that individuals may lack the tools, resources, and training to understand the consequences of their actions and the profound effect that those actions have upon the bilateral relationship and our mission. Therefore, authorized commanders may recall to duty status all members of a unit (squadron, battalion, or equivalent unit) in which one of its

members is involved in an allegation of off-installation misconduct. Exceptions may be granted as specified in paragraphs (3)(c) and 3(d). Authorized commanders may approve resumption of liberty after review of the incident and approval of a unit remediation plan. For example, a unit remediation plan could include an analysis of contributing factors to the incident, unit training (*i.e.*, further alcohol awareness and abuse prevention and refamiliarization of service core values), and/or increased liberty buddy requirements. The purpose of this process is to ensure unit members have a common understanding of requirements and to reinforce unit cohesiveness. Any unit-wide denial of liberty should be of limited duration and implemented only for the purposes described above. Authorized commanders must keep the first O-6 in their chain of command informed of unit recalls and resumption of unit liberty under this paragraph.

4. USFJ component commanders and senior operational commanders in Japan shall re-promulgate this policy to all assigned military personnel, through punitive orders, the violation of which shall be punishable under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice as a violation of a lawful general order. USFJ component commanders and senior operational commanders should ensure that electronic copies of component/senior service liberty orders and guidance are promptly provided to the USFJ Chief of Staff. Questions concerning this memorandum should be directed to the USFJ Chief of Staff, (DSN) 225-4288.

//SIGNED//
SALVATORE A. ANGELELLA
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander

Attachment:
Definitions

Attachment to Liberty Policy for All U.S. Military Forces Located and Operating in Japan

DEFINITIONS

Authorized Commander – A minimum O-4 or higher officer having command authority over the member. In cases where a military member does not have an O-4 or higher commander in Japan, the USFJ component commander or senior operational commander in Japan may designate an alternate O-4 or higher commander. For example, certain officers may be designated to act on the requests of CONUS-based personnel who are in Japan on leave. O-4 or higher commanders are also considered authorized commanders for granting exceptions to the curfew and buddy policy requirements in paragraphs (3)(c) and (3)(d) of the policy memo or directing/rescinding unit-wide denial of liberty in paragraph (3)(f) of the policy memo. In units where the commander is a General/Flag Officer (*e.g.*, in a headquarters staff), that commander may designate an O-6 or higher officer to serve as the "authorized commander."

Liberty -- After normal working hours, or off-duty. This includes evenings, weekends, and holidays.

Military Installations -- DoD installations, bases, posts, camps, stations, and ships. This includes DoD-controlled facilities, such as DoD lodging or recreational facilities. Armed Forces recreation facilities or areas such as the New Sanno Hotel, Hardy Barracks Compound, Okuma Recreation Area, and similar facilities or areas, are considered military installations. U.S. military personnel and their guests may remain in lounges/bars/casinos and all other areas within those installations, even during curfew hours.

Off-Installation Residence, Quarters, or Hotel Room (also place of lodging) -- This may belong to the member. It may also belong to another individual, provided that the military member remains there overnight, during curfew hours. The intent is to ensure that military members, who are subject to the curfew, are not off-installation, in public, during curfew hours. For example, military members may visit their friends at their off-installation residence and remain there through curfew hours. Further, if the military members stay at that private residence overnight, then they may consume alcoholic beverages at that residence, even after 0100 hours. The military members in these examples must ensure that they are not off-installation in a public setting (for example, walking on off-installation streets or in a yard or on a roof where they are visible to others) during curfew hours.