

## Sasebo 2023 DV Town Hall

***[Note: this transcript is from a community member. If you were in attendance and would like to submit any additional information you may have captured, please send an email to [info@jcmadvocacy.org](mailto:info@jcmadvocacy.org)]***

Question: Can the recent changes be rescinded until a solution is found?

Response: No, it is the law, can't just waive the law.

Question: Who is going to train the interpreters in medical jargon? Who is going to pay for the needed interpreters that currently charge \$25-\$40 per hour and are often needed up to 8 hours per appointment?

Response: Question ignored

Question: What is going to happen to bases in Japan when teachers are gone and none can be recruited?

Response: Question ignored

Question: What is being done to guarantee US citizens will be seen in town?

Response: The problem was here before 2011 when the law was enacted.

Question: Why are commands not sharing with potential new hires about the restricted access and limited medical services provided in Japan?

Response: The CNRJ (?) website is very clear about what medical looks like in Japan. I cannot speak to why HR and commands are not sharing correct information.

Question: Why were civilians not made aware of the changes prior to them?

Answer: I agree that appropriate authorities did not provide adequate information.

Question: How are we supposed to get prescriptions filled when we cannot get appointments to get the prescriptions renewed?

Answer: We are looking at telehealth options and receiving prescriptions through eprescribing. If the prescription is on the formulary list and it is in stock it will be filled by the pharmacy.

Question: Why if this law has been in place since 2011 is it being enforced now? There was an attempt to enforce in 2016 but it failed due to the limited services in Japan.

Response: I cannot speak to what happened prior to 9/2022. It is the law and it has to be enforced.

Question: If services are so limited why are not all civilians processed through an EFMP process similar to the military?

Response: It is being looked at but there is some concern about denying employment due to medical issues under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Question: Many maintenance drugs require bloodwork in order to be renewed. Who is going to pay for flights home to have that done?

Response: Looking at a contracted clinic to perform these types of medical services. Also looking into some sort of support system to help pay up front costs and interpreter fees.

Question: Can the clinic open on a Saturday once a month or have a day exclusively for Space A?

Response: (from head of medical) We are looking at ways to expand medical appointments. We cannot carve out Space A time as active military and families come first.

Other notes:

USFJ is currently working with Japanese authorities to try to find a way for more support in town.

The number of Space A appointments are listed on the FB page every morning. It was voiced that many civilians are not available to look at FB or call at 10:00 AM everyday to see if appointments are available. No solution for that from the clinic so far.

When someone asked how many in the room would not have taken their current position if they were fully aware of the medical situation, almost everyone in the room raised their hand.

For retirees: Several brought up the fact that Tricare Prime is not available overseas. They were told that they should be able to enroll in Tricare Plus and receive medical service on base.