



# U.S. ARMY OKINAWA

## ★ TORII STATION ★



### CLAIMS

• 652-4332 / 4742 • BUILDING 218, ROOM 222 •

## Use Care Driving Over Security Barriers

Adapted from a handout from the Kaiserslautern Legal Services Center

We have Security Barriers at each gate at Torii Station. They are useful in maintaining the security of Torii Station; however sometimes they cause damage to vehicles passing over them.

**Requirements to File a Claim:** Owners whose personal vehicles are damaged as a result of impact with a security barrier may file a claim under the Military Claims Act. However, for the Claims Office to pay, the claimant must demonstrate that the damage was caused by a negligent act or omission of the U.S. Government. The Claims office must investigate each claim to determine whether the barrier was installed and functioning properly.

**Negligence of the Driver:** There is a strong presumption that damage to a personal vehicle caused by impact with a security barrier is due to the negligence of the driver and not on the part of the U.S. Government. Such negligence includes lowering the clearance of a vehicle, crossing over the barrier at an inappropriate speed or angle, and/or stopping or backing up over the barrier.

### Driving Tips to Avoid Damage from Security Barriers

- Drive very slowly over the barrier.
- Drive straight over the barrier – do not drive over the barrier at an angle.
- Do not lower your vehicle – drivers who modify a vehicle have a lower ground clearance and assume the risk of damage from objects on the ground.
- Maintain proper tire pressure – low tire pressure can lower the height of the vehicle.
- Keep in mind the number of authorized persons in the vehicle – increased weight in the vehicle can lower the vehicle, especially if there are more people in the vehicle that have seats assigned.

If your vehicle is damaged when driving over a security barrier, be sure to let the security guard know and file a police report. Please take pictures of the vehicle and of the part of the security barrier that you believe caused the damage. Contact the Torii Claims office as soon as possible so your potential claim can be promptly investigated.