



U.S. ARMY OKINAWA

★ TORII STATION ★



LEGAL ASSISTANCE

• 652-4332 / 4742 • BUILDING 218, ROOM 220 •

EXIT/RE-ENTRY STAMPS (JAPAN)

If your civilian Family Members travel temporarily outside of Japan and intend to return make sure family members have a Japanese Exit/Re-Entry Stamp in their passports prior to leaving Japan. Although Soldiers are not required to get this stamp, **Family Members and U.S. civilian employees must get this stamp**. *Also, keep in mind that during the current pandemic (COVID-19), there are extra steps involved with entering and leaving Japan that are not addressed in this article.*

All Family Members and U.S. civilian employees must also have an official or no-fee passport with a "SOFA Stamp" inside which allows them to enter and exit Japan without much difficulty, compared with other U.S. citizens not affiliated in any way with the military who must enter Japan under a tourist visa or some other kind of visa. Again, keep in mind that during the pandemic, there are extra steps and more proof (travel orders, testing, quarantine, etc.) may be required to enter or leave Japan.

During "normal" times, Family Members and civilian employees will have trouble-free exit and entry from Japan, provided they obtain an "Exit/Re-Entry" Stamp for their passport before departing Japan. If traveling during the pandemic, be sure to do your homework to find out what the current requirements are for your travel circumstance and your category of travel. The "Exit/Re-Entry" Stamp can be obtained from the **1) Military Personnel Division (MPD) on Torii Station, 2) the Installation Personnel Administration Center (IPAC) on Camp Foster, or 3) the AMC Terminal on Kadena Air Base.**

Failure to obtain the Exit/Re-Entry Stamp may result in the person having to enter Japan on a 90-day tourist visa. Again, during the pandemic, special restrictions may apply and you may be denied entry into Japan. Pre-pandemic, in order to stay for more than **90 days** the person will have to provide documentation to Japanese immigration proving they have SOFA status. This proof generally involves obtaining a memorandum from the international law section of the Staff Judge Advocate's Office and taking this memorandum to the immigration office to void the tourist visa stamp and obtaining a SOFA Stamp at **the AMC Terminal on Kadena Air Base**. You or your family can avoid this hassle by getting the Exit/Re-Entry Stamp before departure. **Note: Even with an Exit/Re-Entry Stamp in the passport, Civilian Employees will also be asked to show their CAC Card and a copy of their leave/TDY orders when exiting and re-entering Japan.** See below for where and how to get an Exit/Re-Entry Stamp.

Kadena Air Base AMC Terminal Customs/Immigration Office (Exit / Re-Entry Stamp and SOFA stamp), Phone number: 634-2217, open 7 days a week (from 0600 – 2200). You must bring your passport, ID card, and proof of SOFA status (Sponsor's Orders with Family Member's name on it or command sponsorship documents). Note: Kadena Custom's Office will not put the stamp in an official passport, only in tourist passports.

Torii Station MPD (Exit/Re-Entry Stamp), Building 216, Room 128, Phone number: 652-4060. Exit/Re-Entry stamps are provided on a walk-in basis from 0800 – 1130 on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday and from 1300 – 1600 on Thursday. You must bring your passport and PCS orders or employment verification documents stating you and your family are assigned or stationed in Japan. Family members must be command sponsored to receive the SOFA stamp. Additionally, MPD will request proof of DEROS. When entering Japan, a SOFA stamp will be placed in the passport by the Immigration officer. If you do not have a SOFA Stamp, the Military Personnel Office cannot place the Exit/Re-Entry Stamp into the civilian/tourist passport.

Camp Foster IPAC (Exit / Re-Entry Stamp), Building 5699, Phone number: 645-9448, from 0730 – 1630 (Monday – Friday, closed for lunch 1130 – 1300). Must bring passport, PCS orders, current SOFA Stamp or Certificate of Employment/Area Clearance Letter, ID card.

Any questions about getting the Exit/Re-entry Stamp should be directed to the above offices. If you are a U.S. Army employee or Family Member on Okinawa and you or your family forgot to get a stamp prior to departure and need a "SOFA letter" to take to Japanese immigration, please contact the international law section of the Staff Judge Advocate office at 652-4782.

Disclaimer: *The purpose of this article is to educate the reader about how and why to obtain an Exit/Re-Entry Stamp in their passports. The current pandemic, while addressed, brings special requirements that each individual traveler should research before traveling.*