



U.S. ARMY OKINAWA

★ TORII STATION ★



CLAIMS

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

WATCH YOUR SPEED!

Watch Your Speed! Speed Kills! Slow Down! We have heard these warnings before. As an attorney for the Okinawa Law Center, I look at speeding from both a Safety and a Legal Perspective. Please take this opportunity to remind yourself to watch your speed and to avoid the temptation to rush. Give yourself plenty of time to get to work or make appointments (always expect that traffic will be congested, the traffic signals will be red, and plan accordingly).

Speeding in Okinawa is different from speeding in the United States. In both places, it is dangerous and against the law, but on Okinawa, speeding over 29 KPH (18 MPH) above the speed limit changes from being a traffic violation to a criminal offense.

Speed laws exist for a reason – SAFETY. And even though Soldiers are great drivers, they, like everyone else, are expected not to exceed the speed limit. Speeding has injured and even killed our Soldiers. If the safety of yourself and others is not enough to persuade you, consider the legal consequences of speeding.

Speeders on Okinawa can face a fine of up to 100,000 Yen (About \$1,000.00) or six months of hard labor by a Japanese court. On the military side of the equation, speeders can have their license revoked for 12 months and be compelled to de-register their vehicles (this includes Department of the Army Civilians and Family Members). The revocation could also result in the loss of authorization to operate military vehicles.

Speed Limit on Base

- The maximum speed limit on base is 40 kilometers per hour (unless otherwise posted).
- The speed limit in school zones is 25 kilometers per hour. Look for flashing yellow lights.

Speed Limit Off-Base

- The speed limits off base range from 25-40 kilometers per hour in residential areas and up to 80 kilometers per hour on the expressway.
- Speeders get caught speeding on Okinawa by cameras, radar, police officers, and witness reports.
- Speeding is against the law! Knowing that you can be caught on camera or reported by a witness should act as an incentive to follow the law, especially when you know the legal consequences.

Remember To Keep Your PDI and JCI Insurance Up-To-Date!

- SOFA members must have Property Damage Liability Insurance (PDI) for property damage and Japanese Compulsory Insurance (JCI) for bodily injuries.
- **If your PDI is expired and you damage another vehicle, you must pay for the damages, and your command will revoke your SOFA driver's license until you reach a private settlement.**