



U.S. ARMY OKINAWA

★ TORII STATION ★



CLAIMS

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

Traffic Accidents on Okinawa

Traffic accidents are the most common international incident for the U.S. Army community on Okinawa. Each traffic accident has the potential to become a criminal case and could result in **prosecution** by the Japanese legal authorities. Under Japanese law, **every licensed motor vehicle operator is a professional driver and must exercise a high degree of care**. Accidents causing personal injury to individuals can result in confinement or a large fine.

Avoid Prosecution: Drive safely and obey all traffic rules. Be patient when driving in congested areas. Be attentive, and always ensure you allow enough space for sudden stops. If an accident does happen, drivers are required to render assistance to any victims of the accident, report the accident to Japanese and military law enforcement officials, and to stay at the accident scene until advised otherwise by law enforcement authorities. Leaving the scene of an accident or failing to report an accident will likely result in the driver's prosecution, even if only property damage is involved.

Insure Your Vehicles: Make sure you are carrying, at a minimum, the required insurance (Both 1) Property Damage Insurance – PDI and 2) Japanese Compulsory Insurance – JCI). Make sure that you promptly report any and all accidents to your insurance carrier! You are required to report your accident to your insurance company within **72 hours of the accident**. Failure to report a traffic accident or having expired insurance could result in administrative or disciplinary action by the U.S. Army, including but not limited to loss of driving privileges.

Claims Assistance: If your PDI is expired at the time of the accident, you should visit or call the Torii Station Claims Office so you can arrange for a private settlement. You should take pictures of the damage to all of the vehicles or other property damaged in the accident. Try to take photos from different angles to help show the extent of the damage. *Please check your PDI today!*

International Law and Community Relations: In some cases, particularly where personal injury is involved, you should make a "condolence visit" to the victim within one or two days of the accident to express regret for the accident and your hope for a speedy recovery. Such a visit should be coordinated through the Torii Station Community Relations Office or Okinawa Law Center International Law Division.

Accidents when on official duty: If an accident happens when you are on duty or if you are not sure whether your accident will be considered official duty, please contact the Torii Station Okinawa Law Center International Law Division at 652-4782.

Claims Web Page: <https://home.army.mil/okinawa/index.php/about/Garrison/claims>