Overseas Screening and PCSing to Okinawa

If you have received PCS orders to Okinawa, one of the first things you will need to do is begin the Overseas Suitability Screening process (OSS). This involves a medical and dental screening of every member of your family who may potentially accompany you to Okinawa. The purpose of this is to identify whether your family members have medical or dental needs which may supersede available medical resources on Okinawa.

Your losing command will provide information on how to go about this process. You may also visit the OSS section of the US Naval Hospital Okinawa website at http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhoki/Patients/OSS/Pages/default.aspx for more detailed information.

US Naval Hospital Okinawa suggests the following to expedite the screening process:

- Start the OSS process immediately upon receipt of orders.
- Only appointed screeners are able to request OSS for service and family members.
- Provide DD2807 and 1300/1 and any additional/supplemental information along with the request for OSS. These are required to expedite the screening process. Screening may be delayed without these forms.
- Ensure eligible family members with special medical or educational needs are enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP).

Your family's paperwork will be screened at your losing command as well as in Okinawa. The OSS board in Okinawa MUST receive complete information before screening can take place; until that point, a family member will be considered denied. The sponsor can assist in this process by ensuring that all family members have had all necessary appointments and forms completed, and that all such paperwork has been provided to screening personnel at your losing command. If you are unsure about this process, please speak with your losing command.

After a family member passes OSS, their file will be forwarded to Base Personnel, who will grant Area Clearance. Area Clearance cannot be granted without an approved OSS. This clearance allows family members to obtain housing, attend school, obtain a driver’s license, gain employment, etc. If the family arrives in Okinawa without approved Area Clearances, the sponsor will be responsible for significant financial costs such as airfare and temporary lodging; there will also be significant delays in obtaining housing, school placement, etc.
The importance of proper OSS and Area Clearance cannot be overstated. Without these elements, you will be responsible for significant financial costs and experience significant delays in services. In addition, you may be required to ERD (Early Return of Dependents) or curtail your tour if your family member’s medical needs cannot be met in Okinawa. Please ensure that you have educated yourself on these processes by speaking with your losing command and visiting the website listed above.

For OSS questions, please contact the Overseas Screening Committee at USNH Okinawa at:

DSN: 315-643-7592 or
Commercial: 011-81-611-743-7592
Fax DSN: 315-643-7527
Fax Commercial: 011-81-611-743-7527
Email: NHOKI-OverseasScreeningCoordinator@med.navy.mil.

For Area Clearance questions, please contact MCBJ G-1 (Base Personnel) at:

DSN: 315-645-8186
Commercial: 011-81-611-745-8186