

Greetings from Yokosuka, Shipmate!

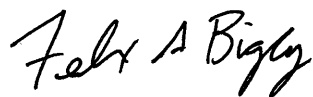
Congratulations on your orders to U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka, Japan, the "Pearl of the Pacific!" The Executive Officer and Command Master Chief join me in welcoming you to the U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka family. We look forward to meeting you! Whether this is your first overseas Pacific assignment, or one of many, I am confident that during your tour you will make friends and memories that will last a lifetime.

You are about to join a bright, enthusiastic, and dedicated team of Sailors, civilians, and Japanese nationals who, on a daily basis, live from the heart our Command's motto: "Here to SERVE with CARE." They are committed to providing the safest and highest quality medical care possible to the patients we are so honored to serve, from Diego Garcia to Korea, as well as in our hospital and branch clinics located throughout Japan. Your addition to this team is going to make a vital difference in the lives of all of our forward deployed Warfighters, their families, and those who support them, and you will directly impact our nation's strength, security, and stability in this Indo-Asia-Pacific region of the world.

For our part, your future Shipmates and I will do everything possible to enable you to excel at this Command, and to grow both personally and professionally. If this is your first time to Japan, you will soon be living in a modern and beautiful country, with a rich culture and gracious people. Your assignment to Japan also affords you the opportunity to travel throughout this region of the world, and to visit lands and see cultures that few Americans are able to experience. It is very common for our Sailors, initially apprehensive about being stationed far away from home, to fall in love with this country as they make friends and experience life in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. After serving their first tour, many have requested a second or subsequent Japanese assignment, returning again to this fascinating area of the world.

You may have many questions about your new assignment, so we have assembled a superb team to assist you with this transition. You have an assigned sponsor to rely on, and we invite family members who may be accompanying you to Japan to make use of our Command Ombudsmen to address any questions or concerns they may have.

船員仲間、ようこそ！    Sen'in nakama yokoso!    Welcome aboard, Shipmate!



Felix A. Bigby

Captain, Medical Service Corps, U.S. Navy  
Commanding Officer