

SGT JENKINS PRESS CONFERENCE
13 SEPT 04

MAJ AMBERG:

Good morning and welcome, just an administrative note, the a two black tape if we can not put anything inside that my fire chief wants to keep those clear just in case. Good morning, for those of you who are here for the first time allow me to introduce myself. I'm Maj. John Amberg, Chief of Public Affairs for the United States Army Japan.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

I'd like to give you a quick summary of the events that have unfolded here at Camp Zama regarding alleged deserter U.S. Army Sgt. Charles Jenkins and his family in the past 48 hours or so.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

On Saturday he left the Tokyo Women's Hospital arrived here at Camp Zama and reported to Lt. Col. Paul Nagaro the Provost Marshall at 10:47 a.m. local time.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

His family was introduced to their sponsors and they were checked into temporary lodging, just as any sergeant and his family would be if they arrived here for duty.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

He received a uniform, pay an id card and completed the in-processing procedures to include the assignment of duties while waiting completion of the legal proceedings.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

Regarding the legal process ahead, the subject was discussed Saturday by our legal expert Col. John Dykstra.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

The subject was also discussed with great detail during the background briefing that many of you attended Aug. 6 at the New Sanno Hotel.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

A full copy of the audio file of Saturday's conference was published on the U.S. Army Japan's web-site.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

A full transcript in English of that press conference will be posted today.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

On the Aug. 6 background briefing, that full transcript of English and Japanese will be posted today on the U.S. Army web-site.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

And that will be www.usarj.army.mil

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

Now that Sgt. Jenkins is under U.S. Army jurisdiction his legal proceedings are moving forward. To avoid comprising that process and to ensure that Sgt. Jenkins receives the legal due process he deserves, it will be our policy not to comment on discussions or related events involved in his proceedings.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

However, I want to assure you that if there is a public hearing or trial in which media coverage can be provided we will provide a media advisory to discuss the possible coverage.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

What I wanted to share with you today are a few updates concerning Sgt. Jenkins since our last press conference Saturday afternoon.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

He has finished the in-processing routine today. He received a haircut and by the end of the press conference you will receive those images on our web-site.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

They will be checking in to housing and assigned their housing. We will be able to provide video of that, we have video of the house that will be on the web-site as well.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

And as the legal process moves forward Sgt. Jenkins will be working for Headquarters and Headquarters Company United States Army Garrison Japan, performing administrative duties as they are assigned to him.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

With me today I have two subject matter experts. First, to my left is Col. Garland Williams, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Japan.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

And to my right I have Lt. Col. Dan Gaul. I know some of you have asked about Sgt. Jenkins medical status.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

Medical screening is a normal part of in processing.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

Sgt. Jenkins will undergo a routine medical screening, because of the HIPAA or Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act we are unable to discuss his medical circumstances specifically but Lt. Col. Gaul can discuss the process in general terms.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

LT COL GAUL:

I'm Lt. Col. Gaul. Good morning. I'd first like to say the United States Medical Activity Department Japan, our mission is to sustain the readiness and promote the wellness through competent and compassionate healthcare.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

LT COL GAUL:

We provide primary care and many specialty services to the active duty, retired military, Department of the Army civilians, DoD civilians and family members.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

LT COL GAUL:

Our services here include family practice, physical therapy, behavioral health, optometry, pharmacy and laboratory support.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

LT COL GAUL:

We focus on providing the highest quality care and on top of that we focus on the health care information, keeping it private in accordance with HIPAA.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

LT COL GAUL:

We fell under these rules on April 14 2003 within the military health system.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

LT COL GAUL:

And ahead of the established health care standards are the privacy rules that protect the privacy of the health care information and the unauthorized disclosure or use of that information.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

LT COL GAUL:

During our in processing with Sgt. Jenkins we provided him the briefing we provide every active duty Soldier and family member.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

LT COL GAUL:

Which includes the capabilities of our medical department activity and also the benefits that come with Tri-Care.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

LT COL GAUL:

And we also briefed him on his rights with the notice of privacy practices in accordance with HIPAA.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG: Ok, at this time now we will take questions for about 20 minutes. One question at a time so that everyone can get a chance.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

REPORTER:

Was Mr. Jenkins briefed with his job already? And when?

MAJ AMBERG:

I think you asked me if Sgt. Jenkins has been briefed on his job.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

Sgt. Jenkins will be briefed on his job once he has completed all his in processing.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

REPORTER (Associated Press):

So my understanding is that he had yesterday and most of Saturday off and that he was going to be back at work this morning. I was wondering if you tell me specifically what that means, did he go back to work? It sounds like he hasn't actually started his administrative duties yet and if he has, what does that mean, being assigned to administrative duties. What kind of things is he doing specifically? What time does his day start? What time does it end? And just one quick note, if he waves his article 32 rights, will you tell us that?

MAJ AMBERG:

Through the process if there are things I can tell you, yes, I will be telling you, letting you know, when given the opportunity. As far as his duties, administrative duties, administration, filing etc. that designated by his supervisor. As far as a duty day, the duty day is designated by the commander. Work call starts at 0830 in the morning and is completed at 1630 in the afternoon.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

COL WILLIAMS:

Good Morning, I'm Col. Williams, the garrison commander. To respond to what administrative duties that Sgt. Jenkins is going to do... he hasn't started his administrative duties yet, he's still in-processing. We're still trying to get him onboard as a complete Soldier, just as we would anybody else who would PCS or be a returnee. So that doesn't necessarily happen in one day. On Sunday he still has some duties, he still has to sign for quarters. That will happen some time this week. We haven't designated where his quarters are going to be. Until that time, he will remain in temporary lodging. Once his in-processing is completed, he will initially be assigned to the orderly room at HHC. We'll do an assessment of Sgt. Jenkins to see what his capabilities are and see what he can help us do. Based on that assessment he might work in the orderly room, or we might put him somewhere else in the garrison.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

COL WILLIAMS:

And I will also allow him the opportunity to go to prepare his defense, he'll have the chance to meet with the defense counsel as he needs. We're looking at this as a... we don't know how long he's going to be here. So we're going to go into this and try to assess his capabilities and give him a meaningful job while he is here and that he can help out the Army during this time.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

Are there any other questions?

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

REPORTER (Mainichi Newspaper):

Has the investigating officer of the article 32 hearing been determined yet?

MAJ AMBERG:

You came back to the specifics that's what I'm not going to be talking about because the legal process protects both the rights of the accused and the rights of the government of the U.S., we're not going to disturb that process. I've confirmed that the UCMJ legal process is on going.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

REPORTER (Reuters/Tokyo):

About the on going legal proceedings, what exactly does it mean when you say the legal proceedings are on going? I realize that you said you couldn't mention any details but is there anything you can tell us perhaps about what kind of officials Sgt. Jenkins may have talked to over the weekend? Umm, any more details you can give us?

MAJ AMBERG:

I can't give you any more detail about what's going on, but I would refer you back to the web cite with the background so that you can understand the process also Saturday's briefing when Col. Dykstra, our legal expert was explaining all the different steps that we had to go through.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

But let me emphasize, if and when there are proceeding that are open to the public, I will make sure as soon as I can to let you know, through the web cite and we will be releasing media advisories.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

REPORTER:

I would like to ask about host family or support family who met Sgt. Jenkins family on Saturday...what will they do for Jenkins family since now, please.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

The Army has a sponsorship program and commanders assign a sponsor, it's a person of the same or higher rank to every Soldier who when they arrive on the installation.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

Single Soldiers sponsor single Soldiers and married Soldiers sponsor married Soldiers

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

The purpose of the sponsor is to smooth the integration of the Soldier and his or her family into the new community.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

And for Sgt. Jenkins and his family, he was provided a sponsor. The Soldier and his wife, the Soldier is a higher rank, I can let you know this about the family, the wife is Korean so between the three of them they are fluent in Korean, English and Japanese.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

It's a reflection of the intent of the program to find the right sponsors for the right Soldier and smooth that integration.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

As far as any activities on the installation I can't go into specifics on what they were doing but Col. Williams can tell you what's available to them on the installation.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

COL WILLIAMS:

There's pretty much everything that you would find in a small town available on Camp Zama, that the Jenkins family can take advantage of.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

COL WILLIAMS:

For physical fitness they can take advantage of our gym at the Yano Fitness Center. We also have an indoor pool, racquetball courts, basketball courts, weight rooms, treadmills anything that they could meet any fitness level for any member of the family.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

COL WILLIAMS

Although temporary lodging and also when they move into their quarters they have access to basically a full kitchen, they can go out to eat. They have the community club they can take advantage of, they have the dining facility, the food court which is near the PX and also the golf course offers a full service restaurant for breakfast and lunch.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

COL WILLIAMS:

To re-supply the food needs or to re-supply any other needs they have access to the commissary here on Camp Zama and also the family can go to Sagamihara Housing Area for their commissary. Sgt. Jenkins himself, his pass privileges have been pulled so he remains on Zama but his family can go off post to SHA.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

COL WILLIAMS:

And when they move into quarters this week they will have access to the PX, which is basically a small department store, for any items that they need to set up house. The government will provide furniture and also a loaner pack from Army Community Services, which includes dishes, pots and pans but will access to the PX to buy anything else they need.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

COL WILLIAMS:

And finally if they want access to a library or internet services we have that available in our library here on Camp Zama and they're free to use the privileges.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

COL WILLIAMS:

So basically in a nutshell, anything in a small town would offer you; it's offered here to Sgt. Jenkins at Camp Zama.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

REPORTER:

My question is follow up questions regarding the family members. Are family members allowed to go outside the Camp Zama? You mentioned that they could go shopping in the commissary at Sagamihara but I'm saying if they wanted to go shopping in Tokyo, can they do that? My second question, is the daughters if they wanted to take Japanese lessons, is that possible for them to do that here on Camp Zama?

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

COL WILLIAMS:

The only person who is under legal proceedings is, in this matter, Sgt. Jenkins himself.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

COL WILLIAMS:

The family can go off post as they please, the only restriction on the family, is the oldest daughter is 22 and under Army rules unless you're a full time college student your ID card really should stop at age 21. So she is on post with a family pass so she would have to do sign in and sign out rules, as we would do with any other family member who is over 21.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

COL WILLIAMS:

As far as taking lessons in Japanese, we do have a college education center on post that does have three colleges, they do offer Japanese. I don't know when the start of the term is, I can go back and check that but they are fully eligible to sign up for a class if they'd like to.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

I'll take two more questions

REPORTER:

Is it possible you could give us any rough time frame when Sgt. Jenkins will actually start the job in the section he is assigned to?

COL WILLIAMS:

If I gave you a time, it would be a guess. It's going to be based on what his defense council and the kind of time he needs to spend with Sgt. Jenkins.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

COL WILLIAMS:

And also the time it will take for him to get a household set up. We're doing this as if he was a normal PCSing in Soldier...I'm sorry, a moving-in Soldier, a new Soldier and we would give a new Soldier time to be able to set up quarters before they start their normal duties.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

COL WILLIAMS:

Army administrative proceedings that we did, is that I granted Sgt. Jenkins command sponsorship, which allows his family to live in quarters with him on Camp Zama.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

COL WILLIAMS:

What goes along with that, as it would with any Soldier, is that we would allow that Soldier time to get his family set up before starting his regular duties.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

REPORTER:

Can we write that the legal proceedings are proceeding today?

MAJ AMBERG:

Yes.

REPORTER:

And will Sgt. Jenkins and his family have to pay for anything like medical care or anything they buy from the commissary.

MAJ AMBERG:

We'll do medical first, then we'll cover the PX.

LT COL GAUL:

For medical care every Soldier wearing the uniform is considered TriCare Prime they do not pay for their medical care. With active duty family members, TriCare gives them a choice they can either become TriCare Prime for all their medical needs are paid for as long as they stay within the medical healthcare system where we refer them to or they could opt to go TriCare Standard where if they are referred outside they would pay a cost share like a 20 percent co-pay. The majority of active-duty family members in the United States Army Japan are TriCare Prime. So as long as we coordinate the care you don't have to pay.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

LT COL GAUL:

And as long as they stay within the military treatment facility system ...

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

COL WILLIAMS:

The second part of your question is what privileges do they have to buy and is it tax-free and things like that.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

COL WILLIAMS:

The PX or Post Exchange is run by the Army Air Force Exchange Service. It is essentially Sgt. Jenkins family is not considered a Japanese citizen first for those privileges they are considered military family members and based on having their ID card they get access to be able to buy goods in there.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

COL WILLIAMS:

And under the U.S. Japan Status of Forces agreement or SOFA, as it is with just about every foreign country we have a military station in where AAFES works, we are allowed to buy products tax-free.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

COL WILLIAMS:

The restriction is we can only sell products to ID card holders...

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

COL WILLIAMS:

For the commissary, the commissary is run by the Defense Commissary Agency as all are commissaries are throughout the military.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

COL WILLIAMS:

And the commissary rules, again they are covered under SOFA and only ID card holders can shop there and the cost of the goods is at cost plus 5 percent.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

COL WILLIAMS:

The commissary is a break-even operation, so that 5 percent is used to pay for salaries and improvements to stores and things like that, but again no taxes to the Japanese government, tax-free.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

And I'd like to thank you for coming today, a couple final administrative notes.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

The joint information bureau here will be closing today and I'd ask that we'd have everyone out by one thirty or thirteen thirty and your trucks by 1400.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

Please continue to monitor our web cite, that's where I will continue to be putting the information as it becomes available to me.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

And if you have any more questions, because we will be turning off the phones here, I will remind you that the number at the public affairs office.

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

0462511788

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

Extension 263-7556

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

Or 7557

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

MAJ AMBERG:

Once again thank you for your interest and all of your cooperation