

## ATSUGI

**Issue:** Rights for US Spouses in Japan

**Question/Concern:** Why are US Spouses in Japan treated like 2nd Class Citizens?

**Background:** Many local businesses and businesses on base require specific vice general power of attorney for non-military spouses to purchase cars, open accounts, etc., leaving them with a feeling that they are not appreciated in Japan.

**Answer:** It is common practice both within the United States and abroad for businesses to require a specific power of attorney for important transactions. In fact, many third parties, even military friendly businesses like USAA, will reject a general power of attorney if presented with one. The reason for this is a liability concern. General powers of attorney lack the specificity necessary for many important transactions and the breadth of authority they grant can easily be abused. It is the Navy Legal Services Command's (OJAG) policy that legal assistance providers will not issue general powers of attorney and instead will provide special powers of attorney to accomplish their clients' goals. This policy applies to all service members, spouses, and civilians overseas who receive legal assistance.

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**Issue:** Coverage for Chaplains in Region

**Question/Concern:** It is hard for Atsugi Catholics to have their religious needs met.

**Background:** We need a regional coverage plan for high demand and low availability faith chaplains, i.e. Catholic and Jewish. NAS Atsugi doesn't have a Catholic Chaplain assigned. They use a retired priest from a local rectory. The Yokosuka mass times are usually packed (and an hour away).

**Answer:** Generating and executing a comprehensive regional coverage plan for religious ministry in Navy Region Japan is a Navy Installations function. Having said that, the following is based on my knowledge.

For a number of years, to assist Catholic personnel in meeting some of their religious needs, a Vigil Mass on Saturdays in NAF Atsugi has been offered by a contract civilian priest. In

addition to the more comprehensive Navy Catholic Chaplain led program at Fleet Activities Yokosuka, one might access an Army Catholic Chaplain led program at Camp Zama which is 7.8 miles from NAF Atsugi.

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