

Assignment: Yokosuka

Current Trends, Concerns and Processes

Scott P. Keehn

Family Life & Education Specialist

FFSC Yokosuka, Japan

scott.keehn@fe.navy.mil



Where in the
world
are you
sending me?



Assignment: Yokosuka - Trends

- Community Housing
 - new construction by local contractors
 - more accommodating to western needs
- Base Housing
 - restriction on tour extensions allows better management of existing units
 - shorter waiting list
 - most families get immediate housing offer



Assignment: Yokosuka - Trends

- Services

- new construction by Gov't of Japan
 - fitness center
 - community support facility
 - new hi-rise billeting
 - infrastructure upgrades

- Home-Port Ashore

- base housing initiative for afloat singles
 - utilize existing (renovated) tower apts



Assignment: Yokosuka - Trends

• Base Facilities

- new USO (opens 19 May)
- renovation of both theaters (late 2008)
- wireless is widespread
 - mostly free; some fee-based; indoor & outdoor
- free wired access points
- cable tv & internet (fee-based) in quarters
- more than 50 food service outlets
 - new Chili's family restaurant
- base bus & taxi services
- extensive tour and travel services



The biggest trend?

Finding new ways
to spoil people.



Assignment: Yokosuka - Concerns

- Cars
 - embargos by year
 - restrictions by paygrade
 - availability of parts; gas
 - right-hand vs. left-hand driving
 - parking space required
 - inspection and modification costs
- storage at gov't expense is an option



Assignment: Yokosuka - Concerns

- Pets

- ship at owner's expense
- importation paperwork
- quarantine (time + cost)
 - limited reimbursement
- limited rental units off base
- vet service availability
- no pets on airport shuttle bus
 - bus desk can assist with alt transport
- no pets at Navy Lodge
 - Navy Lodge can assist with temp holding



Assignment: Yokosuka - Concerns

- Lodging on arrival
 - many families have no reservation
 - assumption that NL will have rooms
 - call or e-mail to reserve a room
 - int'l +81-46-816-6708
 - dsn 315-243-6708
 - navylodge-yokosukares@nexweb.org



Assignment: Yokosuka - Concerns

- Sponsors

- we do our best to provide good sponsor training, but we can't make people be good sponsors
- service members show up and state that they did not have a sponsor – but did they ask for one?
- how do you do sponsorship when the entire command relocates? (what is the gaining command?)



Assignment: Yokosuka - Concerns

- Other
 - fear of the unknown – people will come to your center and cry because they don't want to leave their comfort zone to go to Japan
 - reality check – people will come to your center after returning from Japan and cry because they aren't being spoiled anymore



Assignment: Yokosuka - Processes

- Overseas screening
 - must be done well to avoid pitfalls later
- Base orientation & ICR mandatory
 - prerequisite to getting drivers license
- Culture shock
 - pre-departure training can minimize effects
- Spouse employment
 - advance preparation and flexibility are key factors



Assignment: Yokosuka - Processes

- Welcome Aboard Packets
 - we still send them; CD-based, but with a selection of local items
- Communication
 - encourage service members to stay in touch with family members at home (worried mommies and daddies)
- Cross-Cultural Understanding
 - American values can be shared with, but not impressed upon, a host culture
 - encourage open-mindedness



Assignment: Yokosuka Primary Online Resources

Fleet Info

<http://www.c7f.navy.mil>

Base Info

<http://www.cfay.navy.mil>

Housing Info

<http://housing.cnfj.navy.mil>

Pet Import Info

<http://www.usarj.army.mil/information/shipment/pets.aspx>

Employment Info

<http://hro.cnfj.navy.mil>

also check the “jobs” link on the Base Info web site

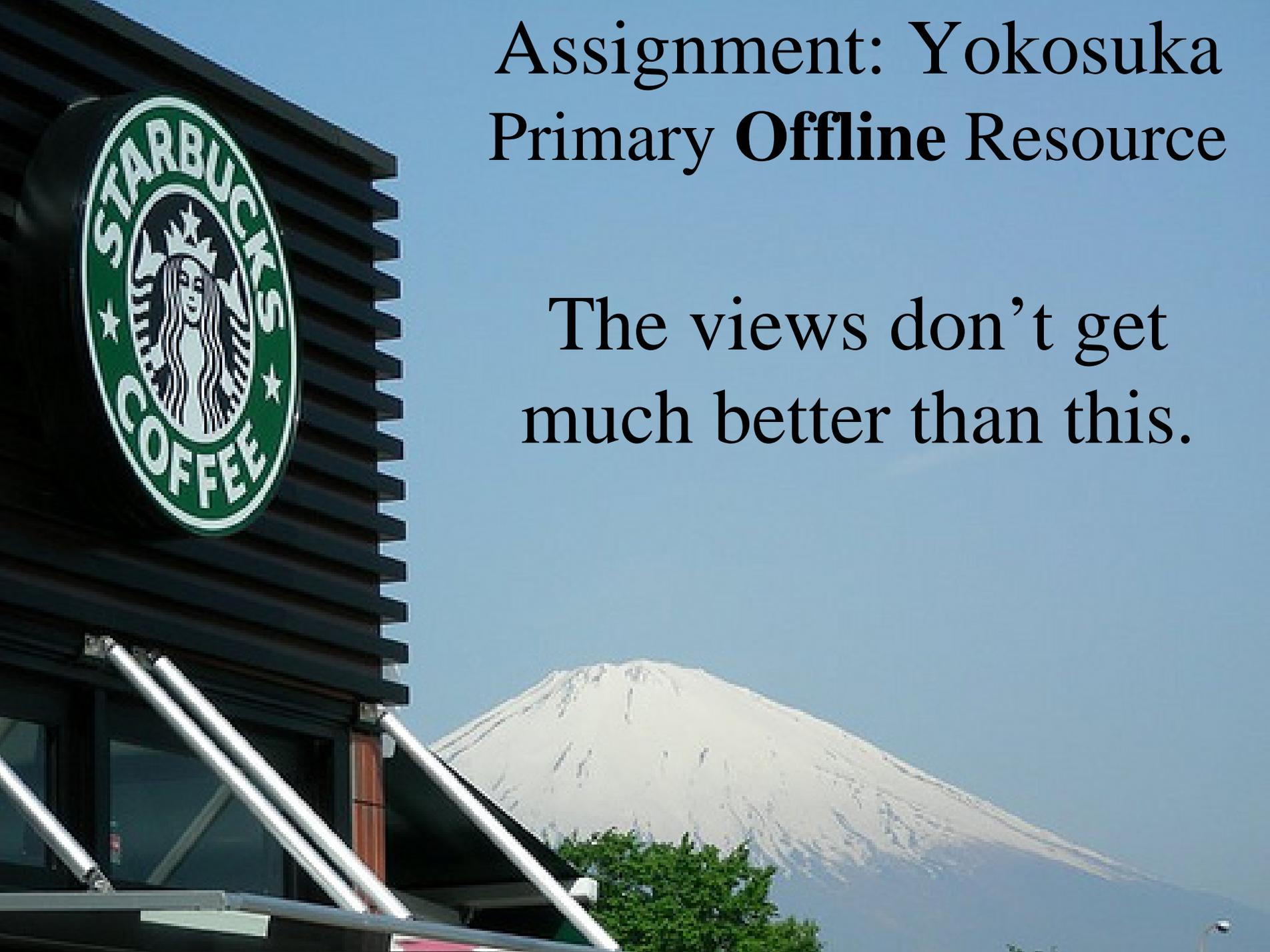
Schools Info

check the “schools” link on the Base Info web site, for links to all five base schools, the base pre-school, DoDEA, the Navy College program, and NKO



Assignment: Yokosuka Primary **Offline** Resource

The views don't get
much better than this.



Thank You

