

Orient Shield 2016 - Annual Edition

OS16

tactics & culture

*U.S. - Japan
bilateral training*

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Exercise directors



Maj. Gen. James F. Pasquaretti
U.S. Army-Japan



Lt. Gen. Ryoji Sunami
3rd Division, Middle Army, JGSDF

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To our JGSDF friends and allies:
Thank you!

陸上自衛隊 友人や同盟国:
ありがとうございました!

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Orient Shield 2016

a military and cultural exchange

Story by Staff Sgt. Margaret Taylor
Photo by Spc. Patrick Kirby

Japan Ground Self-Defense Force members, *near*, and U.S. Army troops stand at attention during the Orient Shield 2016 opening ceremony Sept. 11 at Aibano.

U.S. ARMY SOLDIERS and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force members stood shoulder to shoulder to kick off Orient Shield 2016 on Sept. 11 at Aibano Training Area, Japan.

While much of the exercise revolves around trading military best practices and tactical planning and coordination, the overarching theme of the mission is the cultural exchange.

“Mutual understanding is the most important and basic factor when conducting bilateral operations and this bilateral exercise,” said Lt. Gen. Ryoji Sunami, the commanding general of 3rd Division, Middle Army, JGSDF.

To facilitate that understanding, evening activities in the Friendship Hall on Aibano introduce U.S. Soldiers to various local customs and activities – from origami folding to group games – while allowing Japanese and Americans to mingle.

Also, trips to the surrounding towns and cities let the U.S. service members experience their hosts’ culture firsthand.

The understanding generated by the cultural exchange only strengthens the relationship between the two countries.

“The world continues to be a complex and chaotic

“The fact that Orient Shield is taking place right now in Japan highlights the importance of the U.S.-Japan alliance in the security of this region.”

-Maj. Gen. James F. Pasquarette

place,” said Maj. Gen. James F. Pasquarette, the commanding general of U.S. Army-Japan. “The fact that Orient Shield is taking place right now in Japan highlights the importance of the U.S.-Japan alliance in the security of this region.”

Orient Shield first occurred in 1985 and is an annual, bilateral, tactical field training exercise cohosted by the JGSDF and the U.S. Army Pacific Command. OS 16 is the 31st iteration of the Japan-based exercise series.

The Orient Shield venue rotates among the five JGSDF regional armies. OS 16 is hosted by 3rd Division, Middle Army, and the primary American unit participating is the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division out of Hawaii. Approximately 1,600 U.S. and JGSDF personnel are taking part this year.

“This exercise is a tangible sign of the strength of the security alliance between the governments of Japan and the United States,” Pasquarette said.



"I get to see how other people do what I do, and not only does it make me appreciate my job more, it makes me appreciate what [the JGSDF medics] do. It just makes my job that much more special."

-Sgt. Erica Bruckhart
Medic, Louisiana Army National Guard


Pulling out the stops in OS16 medical training

By Staff Sgt. Margaret Taylor

"BILATERAL" TOOK ON A NEW MEANING during the Japanese-American medical training exercise at Aibano Training Area, Japan, on Sept. 12 during Orient Shield 2016.

Orient Shield itself is a bilateral exercise, and the back-and-forth between Japanese and American medics during the multi-stage training exercise raised the bar.

After a week of planning, medical professionals from the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division rolled out a complex simulation. After taking sniper fire, medics rushed casualties to safety for medical care and then transported them to a landing zone for evacuation by helicopter. And then they did it all again.

Throughout the exercise, JGSDF and U.S. Army medics exchanged best practices, offered encouragement and advice, and generally lived up to what Orient Shield is all about. 



Far left:
JGSDF medics carry an injured comrade to safety after a simulated ambush.
Near left, top to bottom:
A JGSDF medic fills out a treatment tag during triage; an IV injection site gets swabbed; medics carry a litter from an ambulance to a helicopter; a littered casualty is loaded on a JGSDF medical helicopter.



Handling hazmat ...despite language barriers

By Spc. Elizabeth Scott

Photo courtesy of JGSDF



Background:
A U.S. Army soldier wears his gas mask for the CBRN exercise.

Top to bottom:
A JGSDF member directs a U.S. Stryker tactical vehicle into a decontamination lane; a U.S. soldier, *seated*, communicates with a JGSDF member with hand signals; Pfc. Kemper Baker, *left*, stands still while he is scanned for residual blister or nerve agents.



U.S. ARMY SOLDIERS from 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division and 4th Bn., 23rd Inf. Reg., 2nd Stryker Brigade, 2nd ID went through the Japanese decontamination process Sept. 14-15 by following the direction of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force members from the 3rd Nuclear Biological Chemical unit, 3rd Div., 36th Inf. Reg., at Aibano Training Area, Japan.

Decontamination is used in case of a chemical attack to wash away blister and nerve agents, said Sgt. Billy Hammond, a member of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear unit in 2-27.

The process sends machinery and personnel through several different washes and detergents.

Pfc. Kemper Baker and Cpl. Cameron Allen, both infantrymen with 4-23, went through the full decontamination process, which included

getting scanned with a chemical agent monitor, washing their equipment and gear, stripping out of the Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology – or hazmat suit – and getting a full shower.

“It was cool,” said Baker. “I’ve never done anything like that before, and especially doing it with another unit and even another country. That was pretty cool; it was a really good experience.”

The Soldiers navigated through and completed several stations following the directions of the SDF members using printed signs and gestures, but no translators.

“The hand and arm signals I got a hang of,” said Baker. “They were really good at dumbing it down for you, pointing at what they want you to do and where they want you to do it.”

The Japanese process is very similar to the thorough decontamination

process Americans use, said 1st Lt. Amanda Robinson, the 2-27 CBRN officer in charge.

“With the personnel decon, it is almost exact – there’s just a few things here and there that we do a little bit different,” Robinson said. “But it’s nothing that would even change our procedures or change theirs.”

The U.S. Army Soldiers and the SDF members were able to discuss those differences between their methods, like how to move contaminated water sources away from the decontamination site, Robinson said.

“Being able to train with our Japanese counterparts has been very beneficial,” she said.

Aside from the professional benefits, the training bore other fruit as well.

“I would like to do this again one day,” said Hammond. “It was actually really fun.”





Big Bang Training

From rifles and machine guns,
to mortars and missiles:
if it went boom,
it came out to play

DURING THE FIRST WEEK of Orient Shield, U.S. Soldiers and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force members had the opportunity to share and train on several weapon systems. Snipers from both forces showed off their precision in a friendly competition; riflemen and machine gunners spent trigger time in an indoor range; a day on a short range allowed marksmen to show off their advanced skills; artillerymen brought out the mortars to shake the ground; and tanks and Strykers provided long-range percussion. The end result: members of both forces will walk away with greater knowledge of each other's capabilities and some good memories of making things go boom.



Photo by Spc. Patrick Kirby



Photo courtesy of JGSDF



Photo courtesy of JGSDF



Photo by Spc. Elizabeth Scott



Photo courtesy of JGSDF



Photo courtesy of JGSDF



Photo courtesy of JGSDF



Photo courtesy of JGSDF



"Everything worked smoothly, and we're very happy about that."



Staff Sgt. Brian Fuller
S6 automations
(aka, IT master)
10th RSG

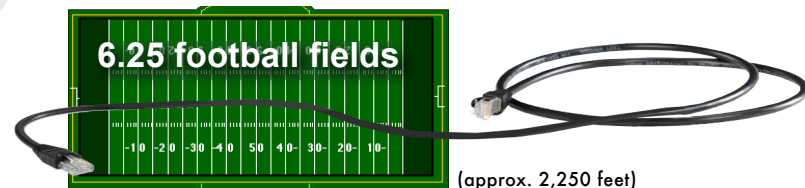
Participants



Bags of laundry sent for cleaning per day



Feet of internet cable laid



Meals served



Money exchanged per day

\$350 → ¥35,575



Pfc. Amber Knox
Laundry, supply specialist
(aka, your best friend)
10th RSG

"To be able to meet complete strangers and then connect [and] come together in fellowship – I just like the connections I'm making."

Keeper of the keys

OS16 MAYOR'S CELL

WHEN MOST AMERICAN soldiers arrived at Aibano Training Area, Japan, a day or two before the start of Orient Shield 2016, everything – food, electricity, internet, laundry, transportation – was up and running.

That's because the folks behind the scenes in the mayor's cell, working in concert with members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, laid all the planning and logistical groundwork well beforehand.

Orient Shield 2016 ran Sept. 11-21, but the soldiers who made up the mayor's cell – who've come from the 10th Regional Support Group, U.S. Army-Japan out of Okinawa – got to Aibano on Aug. 27. They won't leave until late September, days after everyone else goes home. All of the setup and breakdown at Aibano is their business, and they kept the lights on each day of the exercise.

Running the operation wouldn't have been possible without their JGSDF counterparts, who have been flexible in their support and are ready whenever and for whatever is needed, said Capt. Kurt Reynolds, the logistics officer-in-charge in the mayor's cell.

Though they've hit bumps from time to time, the soldiers in the mayor's cell have been able to rise to the challenge.

"We're still able to make the mission happen," Reynolds said.



Capt. Kurt Reynolds
Logistics OIC
(aka, the travel guy)
10th RSG

U.S. troops came from all over the world to take part in OS16.

By Staff Sgt. Margaret Taylor
& Spc. Elizabeth Scott

Task Force No Fear

Their final exercise

Story by Spc. Elizabeth Scott

U.S. ARMY SOLDIERS AND JAPAN Ground Self-Defense Force members part of Task Force No Fear, a bilateral field training exercise, on Sept. 18-20 at Aibano Training Area, Japan, during Exercise Orient Shield 2016.

“The intent of Orient Shield 16 is a bilateral exercise to work both a FTX, the field training portion of the exercise, and a CPX, computer program exercise, so we can leverage both capabilities and readiness of the Japanese Self-Defense Force and the American Army,” said U.S. Army Col. Robert Ryan, the commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

The bilateral FTX was the culminating training exercise after 10 days of joint training, skills and techniques sharing, and cultural exchanges.

“This is the moment that all the guys have been waiting for,” said Capt. Leighton J. Munsch, the commander of B Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd BCT, 25 ID.

During the three-day FTX, Task Force No Fear’s goals were to defend key terrain and protect the U.S.



Photo by Spc. Elizabeth Scott

A U.S. Army medic cares for a JGSDF “casualty” during the urban operations portion of the FTX at Aibano Training Area during Orient Shield 2016.



Photo by Spc. Elizabeth Scott



Photo by Spc. Elizabeth Scott



Photo by Spc. Elizabeth Scott

Left column, top down: U.S. Soldiers discuss directions for their Stryker; a JGSDF tank crew member eyeballs his vehicle's route; markers on the FTX sandtable indicate which units will be where during the exercise. *Right column, top down:* A JGSDF member prepares to clear a room during urban operations; a U.S. soldier radios in for more information.



Photo by Spc. Elizabeth Scott



Photo by Sgt. Ryan Noyes

A JGSDF member and a U.S. Soldier share a gunner's hatch in a Stryker during mountain operations on the last day of the FTX.

Army's 3rd BCT, 25th ID and the southern flank of the JGSDF's 3rd Division.

The first day of the exercise revolved around an urban attack, during which American and Japanese vehicles with mounted weapons provided cover fire for ground forces. Bilateral forces on foot cleared and secured five buildings, detaining enemy forces and taking care of casualties.

"A lot of their techniques and procedures are similar to ours, so it's not hard getting what we would like to do across to them, and the same for them to us," said Staff Sgt. Brett Lenoble, with the 27th Inf. Regt.

The second day, during a platoon live-fire exercise, tanks started the exercise by providing cover fire. American Strykers, armored vehicles manned by U.S. Soldiers from 4th Bn., 23rd Inf. Reg., 2nd Stryker Brigade, 2nd ID, and Japanese light-armored vehicles moved in and then dropped troops to clear the path to take out two different observation posts. They then worked together to take out another observation post.

The third day, American Strykers and Japanese type 47 tanks moved up a mountainside to

destroy enemy forces. U.S. Soldiers and JGSDF members moved out on foot and set up security along the roadside. Despite heavy rain and wind from Typhoon Malakas, which affected the area for much of the FTX, the U.S. Soldiers and JGSDF members were successful in eliminating the target.

"The best part about the exercise is that a soldier is a soldier, and a leader is a leader," Ryan said. "The ability to connect people without an interpreter occurs, and they get after the fundamentals and the foundation of what we are – whether we are infantry, artillery, mortars, food service or logistics."

With the FTX concluding the training portion of Orient Shield 2016, Americans and Japanese forces have not only had a chance to work together using the skills they practiced throughout their time in Japan, they were able to strengthen the bonds of fellowship and to learn to cross cultural hurdles with an allied force.

"This training event has been an absolute honor to come [to] to build on the relationship with our allied partners," said Munsch. "One team, one fight."



Cultural Exchange

AMIDST THE TACTICS AND FIELD WORK, members of the Japanese and American forces found time to let their hair down, so to speak, and bond. Whether through planned cultural activities or impromptu exchanges, sharing happened. Excursions to nearby cities allowed members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force to share their homes and history with American visitors. Accompanied by their JGSDF counterparts, U.S. Soldiers visited temples and shrines, toured museums and other notable sites, and tasted the local cuisine. On Aibano, the Friendship Tent provided a haven for fun and fellowship with a little origami on the side. Even when training, friendships continued to grow, and they won't easily be forgotten.

Photo by Spc. Patrick Kirby

Photo courtesy of JGSDF



Orphanage visit

Photo by Spc. Patrick Kirby



Welcome ceremony

Photo courtesy of JGSDF



Calligraphy

Photo by Spc. Patrick Kirby



Arm wrestling

Photo courtesy of JGSDF



Dinner

Photo courtesy of JGSDF



Origami

Photo courtesy of JGSDF



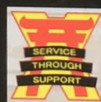
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Photo courtesy of JGSDF



Karate exhibition

ORIENT SHIELD



東洋の盾
2016