



HQ, 42d Infantry Division  
US Army Pacific and Yama Sakura 57  
Camp Higashi-Chitose, Hokkaido Japan  
News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
42d Infantry Division Public Affairs Office

**Release 001-09**  
**Date: 11/30/09**

**New York Army National Guard Troops Bound for YAMA SAKURA  
U.S., Japan to hold YAMA SAKURA 57 on Hokkaido, Japan**

**CAMP CHITOSE, Japan** -- In the second training deployment to the Pacific this year for troops of the New York Army National Guard's 42d Infantry Division Headquarters, members of the division deploy this week to train alongside U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC) and the Japan's Ground Self Defense Force (JGSDF) for conduct Yama Sakura 57 (YS57). The training is a joint command post exercise (CPX) at Camp Higashi-Chitose, on Hokkaido, Japan Dec. 7-14.

Yama Sakura, which means "Mountain Cherry Blossom," is an annual, full-spectrum, combined CPX with U.S. and Japanese forces working to strengthen Japan's self defense operations.

This year, the National Guard's 42d Infantry Division Headquarters will establish a tactical command post as the command and control element for a combat division employed in the battle simulation exercise.

The deployment follows the division headquarters support to the Talisman Saber field training exercise in Shoalwater Bay, Australia earlier this summer. That training involved members of the division's tactical command post number two supporting Australian army forces in the force on force exercise.

The Yama Sakura annual exercise rotates among each of JGSDF's five regional armies. This year, the Northern Army will participate. The training is also a joint exercise for the United States. Yama Sakura combines U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps elements, including Reservists and National Guard forces such as the 42d Infantry, or Rainbow Division, as it is known in the U.S. Army.

About 100 National Guard Soldiers from the Rainbow Division command post will deploy to Japan with an additional 60 troops supporting the exercise from Fort Lewis, Washington. Roughly 1,500 U.S. military personnel and 3,500 JGSDF personnel will participate.

Training objectives include exchanging ideas, military experience and techniques with JGSDF; training U.S. ground forces for deployment to Japan; strengthening JGSDF and U.S. capabilities defending Japan; and preparing USARPAC forces for combined, multi-national and joint operations.

On Dec. 7, the opening ceremony and bi-lateral press conference will be conducted by Lt. Gen. Takeshi Sakai, Northern Army commander and Lt. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, USARPAC commander. Media are invited to attend the opening, the press conference and tour the site.

Interested media should contact Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, 42d Infantry Division Public Affairs Officer at [Richard.goldenberg@us.army.mil](mailto:Richard.goldenberg@us.army.mil). Visit the Yama Sakura web journal at <http://dmna.state.ny.us/blog/journal.php?journal=1259076012>.