

# 2010

**Orient Shield is an annual field training exercise co-sponsored by United States Army Japan and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force.**

**The focus of the exercise is tactical combat and battle staff operations and training at the battalion and regimental level and below.**

**The United States bilateral objectives of Orient Shield are to conduct and improve US Army and Japan Defense Force joint operations, combat readiness and interoperability through focused tactical level training exercises.**

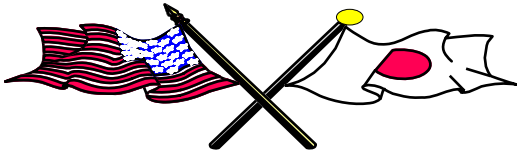
**The training exercise, which took place from October 10-17, 2009 at Camp Imazu and Aibano Training Area, Shiga-prefecture, Japan, was designed to enhance staff coordination and promote regimental and battalion level commander and staff training**

**opportunities. This was accomplished through joint military decision making processes and mutual operations rehearsals.**

**The exercise encouraged enduring professional mutual engagements, relationships, good will, and understanding in order to improve and sustain bilateral operations and procedures.**

**Exercise participants included US Army Japan, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, 69th Infantry Regiment, NY Army National Guard, and 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Division, Middle Army, Joint Ground Self-Defense Force.**

**Additional participants included the 83rd Ordnance Battalion, 8th Theater Support Command providing logistical support.**



## ORIENT SHIELD 2010

### American-Japanese Forces Come Together For Joint Training

Story and photos by  
Sgt. First Class Peter Towse,  
42nd Inf. Div.

**OTOMO BARRACKS,  
JAPAN** – Soldiers of 1st  
Battalion, 69th Infantry  
Regiment, New York Army  
National Guard traveled over  
seven thousand miles to  
meet with soldiers of Japan's  
7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd  
Division, Middle Army, Joint  
Ground Self-Defense Force  
to commemorate the opening  
ceremony for Exercise Orient  
Shield here October 9, 2009.

Orient Shield is an annual  
field training exercise co-  
sponsored by US Army  
Japan and the Japan Ground  
Self-Defense Force.

"It is truly a pleasure to be  
with you in the land of the  
rising sun," said Lt. Col. John Andonie, the commander  
of the 1-69th Infantry Battalion. "We are humbled and  
grateful to be in your wonderful country."

The training exercise will take place at Camp Imazu  
and the Aibano Training Area, Shiga-prefecture, Japan



*Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 69th Inf. Regiment, NY Army National Guard and soldiers of Japan's 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Division, Middle Army, Joint Ground Self-Defense Force salute in greeting during Exercise Orient Shield opening ceremonies, Oct. 9.*

from October 10-17.

"I have no doubt that we will have a successful and  
outstanding exercise," Andonie said.

The focus of the exercise is to give the battalion  
commanders tactical combat and battle staff skills  
while encouraging professional relationships, good will  
and understanding with the Japanese army.

The exercise includes participants from 1st  
Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, NY Army National  
Guard, the 83rd Ordnance Battalion and the 8th  
Theater Support Command with US Army Japan and  
Japan's 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Division, Middle  
Army, Joint Ground Self-Defense Force.

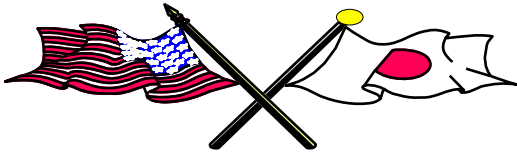
"I hope that we will form lasting bonds of  
friendship," Andonie said. "I look forward to meeting all  
of you in the days ahead."

The aim of Orient Shield is to conduct and improve  
US Army and Japan Defense Force joint operations, to  
improve combat readiness, and to increase tactical  
level experience.

"We are very glad to be able to conduct this  
exercise with the officers and Soldiers of 1st Battalion,  
69th Infantry Regiment," said Col. Hiroyuki Hata, 7th  
Infantry Regiment Commander. "I hope this exercise  
will become a meaningful and fruitful exercise and will  
bring out good relationships and friendships between  
the United States and Japan and play a role in our  
alliance."







## ORIENT SHIELD 2010

### Breaking Down Language Barriers

#### US and Japan Military Interpreters Facilitate Bi-lateral Training During Orient Shield



*Spec. Nathaniel Henrickson, Co. A, 341st Military Intelligence Battalion, Washington Army National Guard assists Lt. Col. John Andonie, 1st Bn, 69th Infantry Regiment Commander, New York, NY as he discusses bi-lateral training with Japan Ground Self-Defense Forces during exercise Orient Shield, Oct 11, 2009. Photo by: Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo, 42nd Inf. Div.*

Story by Spec. Jimmy Bedgood, 42nd Inf. Div.

**OTOMO BARRACKS, JAPAN** — Helping to bring US and Japanese military forces together is what Washington Army National Guard Spec. Samuel J. Greer with the 341st Bravo Co. and Spec. Nathaniel Henrickson from the 341st Military Intelligence Battalion Alpha Co. Det. in Tacoma do for a living.

They have a way with words, literally, providing interpreter services and translation to facilitate joint training between the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, NY Army National Guard and Japan Ground Self-Defense Forces, during Orient Shield, a bilateral field training exercise, October 10-17, 2009

"The ability for exercise participants to communicate with each other is imperative to the success of the exercise, said Sgt. First Class George Pasion, Orient Shield Operations NCOIC for US Army Japan. "We could not do this without the skills and talent of our translators."

Orient Shield is designed to integrate soldier skills, while working toward a common training goal.

"Having a translator has been a tremendous benefit and has allowed us to streamline the process,"

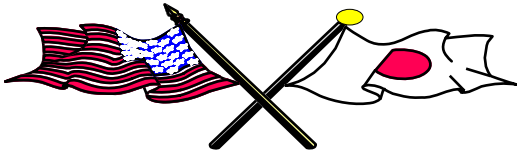
said Lt. Col. John Andonie, 1-69 Inf. Reg. Commander. "Our Soldiers have devised numerous ways to communicate with each other, everything from hand gestures to drawing pictures," Andonie said. "This training opportunity would have been significantly more challenging without the assistance of our US translators."

The week long training is geared toward improving both US and Japan combat readiness and working together to enhance relations to support the security interests of friends and allies in the region.

"We need to be here, without our alliance with Japan we have no way of taking care of our interest in this part of the world," Greer said. "I've always loved Japanese, it's a skill set I can use, even after the military."

1st Lt. Takashi Haga, a Platoon Leader with the 37th Infantry Regiment, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force was selected to act as an interpreter throughout Orient Shield because of his bi-lingual skills.

"Working with the 1 Bn. 69th Regiment has given me a very good opportunity to practice my English," said Haga. "I am happy to support the bilateral training."



## ORIENT SHIELD 2010

Quick Reaction Training Builds Fast Friendships

### Marksmanship Training Part of Orient Shield

Story and photos by Spec.  
Rachel Sanzo, 42nd Inf. Div.

**AIBANO TRAINING AREA, JAPAN** — What started out as marksmanship training for US and Japanese Soldiers transformed into a tactical – and cultural – learning experience for both parties involved.

New York Army National Guard Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment based in New York City, New York and Soldiers of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force engaged in close quarters marksmanship training on October 11, 2009.

The United States and Japanese soldiers took part in the training as part of exercise Orient Shield.

Close quarters marksmanship teaches Soldiers how to engage targets while they are on the move in a confined area. Compared to the standard marksmanship taught to US Soldiers in basic combat training, this advanced training instructs Soldiers to anticipate and react quickly to unstable targets in small areas such as buildings.

"Soldiers generally aren't going to encounter stationary targets at a distance during their deployments," said Sgt. First Class Christian Gallagher, a platoon sergeant with Charlie Company, 1-69th from New York City and close quarters marksmanship instructor for exercise Orient Shield. "Close quarters marksmanship training is important because it teaches Soldiers realistically what to expect so they'll act smarter downrange."

The training, which included instruction on stance and body positioning, turning and movement techniques, tactical reloading, and multiple target acquisition, provided the US and Japanese Soldiers an opportunity to exchange knowledge and learn from their counterparts.

"This training gave the US Soldiers an opportunity to share their learned knowledge with the Japanese Soldiers, and vice



*Sgt. Jairo Aquino and Sgt. Roman Goris, weapons team leaders with Bravo Company, 1-69th from New York City, engage in conversation with Capt. Haruki Ikai from the Japan Ground Self Defense Force during close quarters marksmanship training October 11, 2009 as part of exercise Orient Shield.*

versa," said Gallagher. "It was a definite learning experience."

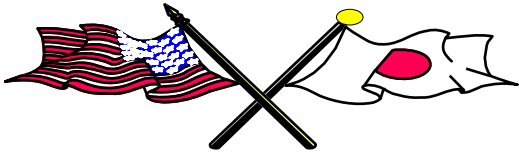
The training culminated in a multiple target acquisition competition between 12 sets of US and Japanese Soldiers.

"The competition at the end was really awesome," said Sgt. Jairo Aquino, a weapons squad team leader with Bravo Company, 1-69th from Bronx, New York. "I was very impressed with the training and the high level of discipline shown by the Japanese soldiers. They are very professional."

The CQM training, though first and foremost a tactical field exercise, turned into something much more for many Soldiers.

"I got the chance to make some great friends from the Japanese Army," said Sgt. Roman Goris, the assistant weapons squad team leader from B Company, 1-69th from Queens, New York. "We exchanged email addresses, and I will miss them very much when our unit leaves Japan."





## ORIENT SHIELD 2010

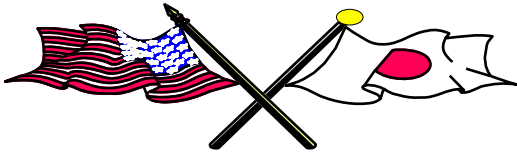
Quick Reaction Training Builds Fast Friendships



*New York Army National Guard Soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and soldiers of the Japan Ground Self Defense Force participate in close quarters marksmanship training on October 11, 2009. The training demonstrated how to engage targets in confined areas and provided an opportunity for both forces to interact and form lasting relationships.*







## ORIENT SHIELD 2010

### Exchanging Expertise Brings Forces Together

#### US Army and Japan Defense Force Soldiers Compare Skills Through Training Exercise

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo, 42<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Div.

**AIBANO TRAINING AREA, JAPAN** -- For any Soldier, entering and clearing an enemy position can be intimidating. Not knowing what lies beyond the door or what to expect requires reacting on instinct - instinct formed through battle drills and repetition.

It was these battle skills that Soldiers from the New York Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment and Japan's 7th Regiment, 3rd Army Division, Joint Ground Self-Defense Force compared at Camp Imazu Military Operations Urban Training site during exercise Orient Shield.

Both units demonstrated how they conduct military operations. Exchanging urban terrain operations tactics and techniques was just a small part of the exercise designed to integrate soldier skills while working toward a common training goal.

For many of these Soldiers it was their first opportunity to train with soldiers from a different culture with totally different weapons systems.

"This has been a great opportunity to assess how they perform their missions and possibly utilize some of their practices, said Staff Sgt. Johnny Madera, a



*Nobuyasu Hirata, a Combat Instructor for the 3rd Army Division shows off their Joint Ground Self-Defense Force Tank Type 74 to Staff Sgt. Johnny Madera, a Squad Leader with Bravo Company, 1-69th Infantry Regiment, Queens Village, NY during MOUT training, October 10, 2009 during exercise Orient Shield.*

Squad Leader with Bravo Company, 1-69 Inf. from Queens Village, NY.

"Their mission performance was executed on point with successful use of their equipment. Everything we saw today convinces me I'd fight along side them any day," Madera said.

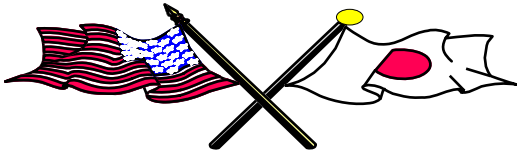
Sgt. Masahiro Jyoko, Co. 5 Rifle Platoon Squad Leader, gained a great deal of information from the combined training opportunity. "The 69th Inf. regiment fight effectively and have experience from combat. I am very happy to teach this important skills to my subordinates," said Jyoko.

The focus of the exercise is to give the battalion commanders tactical combat and battle staff skills while encouraging professional relationships, good will and understanding with the Japanese army.

"The procedures are similar to ours; they are very enthusiastic and expedient. They seem to be extremely disciplined and I am glad we had the opportunity to train with them," Madera said.



*Japan's 7th Regiment, 3rd Army Division, Joint Ground Self-Defense Force explain their military tactics and techniques for urban assault training to Soldiers for the New York Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment at Camp Imazu Military Operations Urban Training site, Oct. 11, 2009 during exercise Orient Shield.*

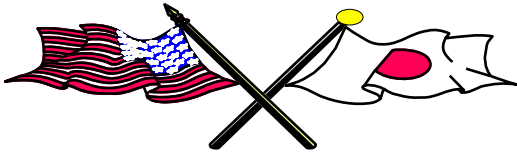


# ORIENT SHIELD 2010

Exchanging Expertise Brings Forces Together







## ORIENT SHIELD 2010

### Training Takes to the Skies

#### US and Japan Forces Share Skills Through Aviation Training



*Staff Sgt. Ronald Stroh, an infantry squad leader with Charlie Company 1-69th, signals the squad to board the Japanese CH-47 Chinook October 12, 2009 for the air assault mission.*

Story and photos by Sgt. First Class Peter Towse, 42nd Inf. Div.

**AIBANO TRAINING AREA, JAPAN** – The landing zone perimeter is lined with US Soldiers, forming a wall of security waiting for the birds to come in.

Soon, the familiar sounds of helicopters cut through the air and the order “one minute” resounds among the troops as they repeat the warning to prepare to board the CH-47 Chinook.

The rotor wash from the Japanese cargo helicopter blasts the infantrymen with rocks and dirt...forming a cloud of thick dust as they move from the prone position to the back of the aircraft.

Within seconds, approximately 25 New York Citizen Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, are in the Chinook and ready for the assault.

“Our mission is to assault an area,” said Staff Sgt. Ronald Stroh an infantry squad leader with Charlie Company 1-69th. “We will be transported by helicopter from one location to another and then inserted into the area we will be assaulting.”

Once back on the ground, the troops disembark the aircraft and secure the new LZ until the helicopter leaves. Once the aircraft has cleared the area, the Soldiers carry on with the mission.

“There is a certain adrenaline level when training in this environment,” Stroh said.

“There are a lot of other factors, like safety, that come into play when doing this type of training.”

The ‘assault’ is just one element of on going training in conjunction with Orient Shield.

Four Japanese helicopters are involved in the exercise; three UH-1 “Hueys” and one CH-47 Chinook. Air assault troops of Japan’s 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Division, Middle Army, Joint Ground Self-Defense Force take the lead aircraft and rappel out of the side of the Huey to the ground in order to secure the area before the other three helicopters land to drop the assault troops off for the rest of the mission.

“Soldiers have to be conscience of what they are doing because somebody could get hurt,” Stroh said. “We are using real helicopters and some of the Soldiers have not done this before...This is air assault training!”

Prior to boarding the aircraft, the 69th Infantry Soldiers secure an area while waiting for the aircraft to arrive. Once the helicopters land, the Soldiers load the aircraft, fly around the area of the simulated battle field then exit the Chinook to provide security.

The training takes about 30 minutes to complete, giving each squad participating a chance to work on their techniques and exchange information with their Japanese counterparts.

“It is very good working with our Japanese counterparts,” Stroh said. “Their techniques are similar to ours and we are able to learn from them as well as teach them our techniques.”

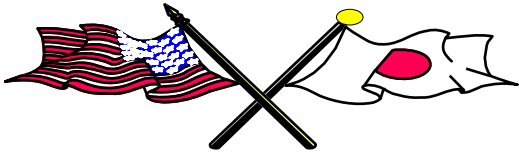
“The 69th Infantry Regiment has very good skills in security and positions,” said Sgt. Koji Nagashima, Company 5, 7th Infantry Regiment Anti-tank Platoon Leader. “I am happy to learn better techniques to teach my subordinates,” Nagashima said.

Once the training phase is complete, both forces will take part in a culmination of all their training in a simulated battle exercise spanning three days.



*Soldiers of Charlie Company, 1-69th exit a Japanese CH-47 Chinook October 12, 2009 during an air assault mission during Orient Shield.*



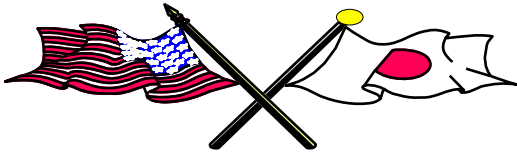


## ORIENT SHIELD 2010

Training Takes to the Skies







## ORIENT SHIELD 2010

### Army Scouts Walk Same Path



*Pvt. Shaheem Danztler, a member of 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment's scout platoon, along with members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, stand watch and provide security during scout training at Camp Imazu and Aibano Training Area, Shiga-prefecture, Japan October 14, 2009 as part of exercise Orient Shield.*

### US and Japan Military Scouts Discover: Regardless the Uniform, the Mission is the Same



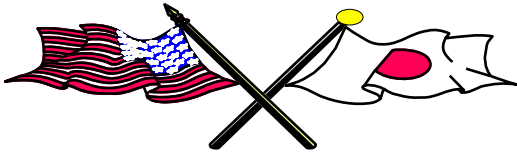
Story and photos by Spec. Rachel Sanzo,  
42nd Inf. Div.

**AIBANO TRAINING AREA, JAPAN** -- From the time New York Army National Guard members of 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment's scout platoon arrived here, they literally hit the ground running. Their duty as scouts is to get the information, and to deliver it fast.

"As scouts, our job is to gather intelligence for our higher-ups and to relay it in real time on the battlefield," said Staff Sgt. Ryan Bhoorasingh, the scout platoon leader for the 1-69th Headquarters Company from Queens, New York.

The scout platoon, along with members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, gathered at the training area and conducted scout training, October 14, 2009 as part of exercise Orient Shield.





## ORIENT SHIELD 2010

### Army Scouts Walk Same Path

"The Japan Ground Self-Defense Force welcomed us and seemed very willing to learn," said Bhoorasingh. "I've learned a few things from them since we've been here."

The US and Japanese soldiers exchanged knowledge and compared techniques in fire team movement, moving in stacks as squads, and conducting reconnaissance missions in the battle zone and en route to their objective. And although the techniques and equipment used on both sides may have differed, many soldiers discovered that the mission of a scout is a universal one.

"There's a bond between scouts of any nationality, it doesn't matter what country we're from," said Spec.

Pablo Acosta, a scout platoon member of the HHC 1-69th from Manhattan, New York. "A lot of our training standards are the same, and we all have a common goal in terms of our mission and what it entails."

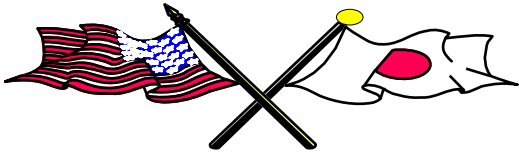
Through conducting the scout training, the US Soldiers learned how to accomplish their mission, and were able to experience the dedication and hard work shown by their counterparts.

"The soldiers loved it on both sides. The fact that we worked together, hand in hand, with the Japanese soldiers made the communication barrier fade away very fast," said Bhoorasingh. "It's been a great opportunity being here and working with such dedicated soldiers."



*Pvt. Shaheem Danztler and Pvt. First Class Carlos Gonzalez, members of 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment's scout platoon, along with members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, stand stacked and ready to move as a squad during scout training at Camp Imazu and Aibano Training Area, Shiga-prefecture, Japan October 14, 2009 as part of exercise Orient Shield.*



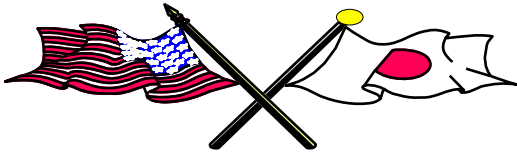


# ORIENT SHIELD 2010

## The Journey







# ORIENT SHIELD 2010

## Mission Accomplished!

### Orient Shield Succeeds Through Exchange of Tactical and Cultural Experiences

Story by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo, 42nd Inf. Div.

**AIBANO TRAINING AREA, JAPAN** -- Hundreds of US and Japanese Soldiers took to the wood lines here in a simulated combat field training exercise. Moving simultaneously and parallel with one goal in mind – defeat a common enemy.

Soldiers from the New York Army National Guard's 1st Battalion 69th Infantry Regiment identified enemy fighting positions and collected information on the makeup and strength of the fictional enemy.

This was used to assist both the US Army and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) soldiers set up hasty defense positions and attack and defeat enemy forces.

Ground and mounted soldiers from both forces crossed steep elevations and rivers, concealing their movements as they denied the enemy the capability to conduct counter attacks on friendly forces.

The ultimate goal was to advance the 7th Regiment, JGSDF, to their appointed objective and secure it.

Mission Accomplished!



*Spec. Joshua Earle 1st platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Bn, 69th Inf. Regiment fires a 240 Bravo machine gun against opposing forces during Orient Shield field training exercise, Aibano Training Site, Japan, Oct. 16, 2009. Photo by Sgt. First Class Peter Towse, 42nd Inf. Div.*

During the field exercise, which took place from October 16-18, Soldiers put into play many of the combat skills and techniques they demonstrated to one another over the past week, while participating in Orient Shield 10, October 10-17, 2009.

"Orient Shield is an exercise we run every year with the Japanese in a bilateral environment to really strengthen the relationship between the US Army and JGSDF," said Major General Francis J. Wiercinski, US Army Japan/I Corps (Forward) Commanding General, Camp Zama, Japan.

"The 1-69th Soldiers have been training side by side with their Japanese counterparts and sharing their knowledge; not only what they've learned in combat, but their Soldiers skills as well," Wiercinski said.

Throughout the week-long exercise designed to promote regimental and battalion level command training opportunities, combat readiness and tactical level training, US and JGSDF soldiers exchanged combat skills and techniques.

Demonstrating how they conduct military maneuvers in urban terrain operations, air assault missions, squad movement and reconnaissance techniques. Of particular interest to Japan forces was learning to engage targets while moving in a confined area and reacting quickly to unstable targets.

"The command and control abilities of the 69th Regiment Commander, staff activities and basic action of each soldiers, are very helpful for us," said Col. Hiroyuki Hata, 7th Infantry Regiment Commander.

"They've also learned about Japanese leadership skills and techniques, tactics and procedures... and that's what this whole thing's about," Wiercinski added.

"This training is a way to build up connections between the US and Japan Ground Self-defense Force. It is most important in case we must conduct combined operations under each chain of command," said Lt. General Mamoru Fujisaki, Commanding General for the 3rd Division, JGSDF, Camp Senzo, Japan.

"This field training exercise is remarkable, which has a direct bearing on interoperability," Fujisaki said.

For many of these Soldiers it was their first opportunity to train with soldiers from a different culture with totally different weapons systems.

"This has been a great opportunity to assess how they perform their missions and possibly utilize some of their practices," said Staff Sgt. Johnny Madera, a Squad Leader with Bravo Company, 1-69 Inf. from Queens Village, NY. "Their mission performance was executed on point with successful use of their equipment. Everything we saw convinces me I'd fight alongside them any day," Madera added.

Sgt. Masahiro Jyoko, Co. 5 Rifle Platoon Squad Leader, gained a great deal of information from the combined training opportunity. "The 69th Infantry Regiment fight effectively and





## ORIENT SHIELD 2010

### Mission Accomplished!



2nd Lt. Anthony Livhits reviews counter attack grid coordinates with members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force during Orient Shield field training exercise, Oct. 16, 2009. Photo by Sgt. First Class Peter Towse, 42nd Inf. Div.



Spec. John Walis, 1st platoon, Delta Company, 1st Bn, 69th Inf. Regiment fires a 50 caliber machine gun against opposing forces during Orient Shield field training exercise, Oct. 16, 2009. Photo by Sgt. First Class Peter Towse, 42nd Inf. Div.

have experience from combat. I am very happy to teach this important skills to my subordinates," said Jyoko.

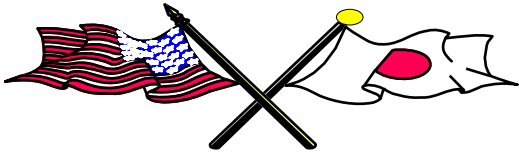
"We should train more and we must reflect on what we have studied from US and also hope this exercise has the honor of good relationship between US and Japan. The friendship and trust built between 1st Bn. 69th Regiment and the 7th Infantry Regiment is forever," Hata said.

"It's an honor to have the 69th here. They have a great history, a magnificent combat record and they come here with an attitude of learning and an attitude of teaching and that's exactly what we need," Wiercinski said.

"My hat goes off to them for doing such a superb job out here, for extending US and Japanese relations, and really being great ambassadors for the United States of America," Wiercinski said.

"This has been an outstanding experience for our Soldiers, not only in the context of our own training, but the opportunity to share our experiences with our Japanese counterparts and learn from them," said Lt. Col. John Andonie, Commander, 1st Bn. 69th Infantry Regiment, New York Army National Guard.



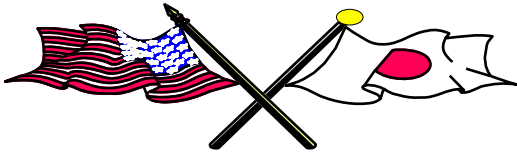


# ORIENT SHIELD 2010

**Mission Accomplished!**







## ORIENT SHIELD 2010

Working Around the Clock and the Globe

### Missouri Medics Support Exercise Orient Shield



*Lt. Col. Kuno Zimmermann, medical officer-in-charge for exercise Orient Shield with the Missouri Medical Detachment from Jefferson City, Missouri oversees Sgt. Brody Eller, a combat medic with the detachment and Sgt. First Class Miho Yamashita, an EMT nurse with the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, as they assemble an oxygen tank at the Imazu Medical Clinic Oct. 15, 2009.*

Story and photo by Spec. Rachel Sanzo, 42nd Inf. Div.

**IMAZU MEDICAL CLINIC, JAPAN** – Another slow day passes by at the clinic, but this doesn't discourage the nine-man medical team made up of Army National Guard Soldiers with the Missouri Medical Detachment from Jefferson City, Missouri.

"A good day is a day when we don't see anybody come through," said Lt. Col. Kuno Zimmermann, a preventative medicine officer with the detachment and medical officer-in-charge of exercise Orient Shield. "It means that the Soldiers are safe, and that the exercise is running smoothly."

The exercise encourages enduring professional mutual engagements, relationships, good will, and understanding in order to improve and sustain bilateral operations and procedures.

The medic team for the exercise works closely with nine other Japanese medics from the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force to provide Level 2 medical services to Soldiers whose ailments demand more than what the medic station at the field can offer.

"From the moment we arrived here in Japan, we weren't made to feel like outsiders looking in," said

Master Sgt. Darlene Neely, the medical readiness non-commissioned officer for Orient Shield with the Missouri Medical Detachment. "The Japanese medics were very welcoming and have made us feel at home in their clinic."

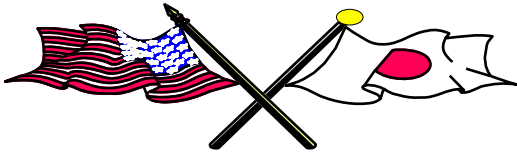
The Japanese medics allow the Missouri team full use of their ambulance vehicles, x-ray machines, and blood testing labs. In turn, the US medics provide their stitching expertise and insert IVs for soldiers of any nationality who may need them—plus, they promise to take off their boots before they enter the clinic.

"We very much respect their culture and are glad to be able to work with them," said Sgt. Brody Eller, a combat medic from Osage Beach, Missouri.

The medics work around the clock to ensure there are staff members present at the clinic at all times. Each US and Japanese medic works a 12 hour shift at the clinic to make sure their equipment and services are ready at a moments' notice.

"At times the communication barrier can be difficult, but at the root of it we are all medics here," said Zimmermann. "The underlying principle is that you have to be ready; we all do what we have to in order to make sure we are."





## ORIENT SHIELD 2010

Money is Money - No Matter the Country

### Puerto Rico Army National Guard Finance Soldiers Support Foreign Exchange

Story and photos by Spec. Rachel Sanzo, 42nd Inf. Div.

#### OTOMO BARRACKS,

**JAPAN** – Most American citizens would draw a blank if asked how many yens equal one U.S. dollar.

For Staff Sgt. Odeymis Diaz, a finance specialist for exercise Orient Shield, however, the question is an easy one.

"Well, as of today you can get 89 yen for one American dollar," said Diaz. "But come back to my office tomorrow and it could be something completely different."

Diaz and Sgt. First Class Howard Villa, military pay technicians with the Joint Forces Headquarters from San Juan, Puerto Rico, were excited when they were asked a month ago to travel to Japan to serve as finance specialists for exercise Orient Shield.



*Sgt. First Class Howard Villa and Staff Sgt. Odeymis Diaz, military pay technicians with the Joint Force Headquarters from San Juan, Puerto Rico assist Staff Sgt. Al Restifo from 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment in exchanging American dollars to Japanese yen during Exercise Orient Shield, Oct. 11.*



"I jumped at the opportunity to be able to do my job in a foreign country," said Villa.

After undergoing a currency conversion course at the military pay office at Camp Zama, Japan, Villa and Diaz received the training necessary to convert US dollars to Japanese yen.

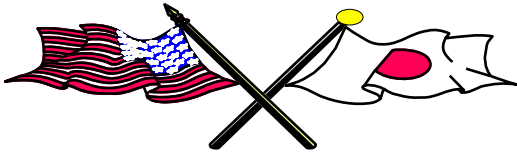
Villa and Diaz man the finance office, which is open every day during Orient Shield, and work to convert participating Soldiers' American currency into yen supplied by a community bank in Japan. The office serves approximately 25 to 35 Soldiers daily.

"I definitely think that seeing a finance office at the barracks is a big comfort for the Soldiers when they arrive," said Diaz. "The Soldiers are being served by fellow Soldiers, which adds a certain element of trust."

Many Soldiers, when given the option of converting their currency at the airport when they arrive in Japan or at the finance office located on site, choose the finance office.

"Having the office here makes it easier and more convenient for Soldiers coming to an unfamiliar country," said Villa. "It's one less thing they have to worry about."





## ORIENT SHIELD 2010

### Meals on Wheels

#### Puerto Rico Army National Guard Travels to Orient to Feed Soldiers

Story by Spec. Jimmy Bedgood, 42nd Infantry Division



#### AIBANO TRAINING AREA, JAPAN -

Feeding roughly 300 US Soldiers is the order of the day for 15 Puerto Rican Army National Guard Soldiers.

New York Army National Guardsmen from the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment and support personnel were provided hot meals during Orient Shield, when Soldiers from seven National Guard units in Puerto Rico traveled over 7,000 miles to Japan with one mission in mind: to prepare over 6,000 meals for the duration of the training exercise.

However, a typhoon watch and subsequent flight delay, threatened to 'put the breaks' on these meals on wheels.

But, even inclement weather couldn't slow down the support mission of these Puerto Rican Guardsmen and women.

"We planned a lot, which was helpful; all the equipment was here when we got here," said Staff Sgt. Javier Santana, with 840th Maintenance Company, Puerto Rico and the cooking staff's NCOIC.

"It takes all of us to make this happen. The communication has been very good and helped us adjust to the situation," Santana added.

The 15 Guardsmen, who provided food services during the training, are assigned to the Landing Craft Detachment-191 Readiness Support Group, 1243 Transportation Company, 840 Maintenance Co. 714th Quarter Master Water Purification and Headquarters Company 292 Quarter Master in Puerto Rico.

"As cooks we feel satisfaction knowing we serve Soldiers and make them feel at home in a foreign country," said Santana.

"It's been awesome seeing the friendships formed between the American and Japanese soldiers," said Spec. Ricky Ortiz, a cook with the 840th Maint. Co.

The food service Soldiers won the Phillip A. Connelly regional competition bake off in 2009, an award named after a former president of the International Food Service

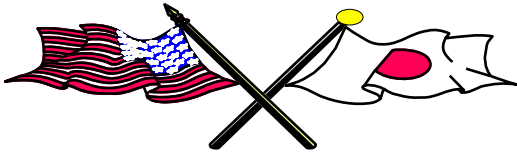
Executives Association, established in 1968 to improve good service operations and recognize the best mess halls in the Army.



*Specialists Ricky Ortiz and Eric Collazo, food service personnel with the 840th Maintenance Company, Puerto Rico Army National Guard, work to prepare a meal for Soldiers participating in exercise Orient Shield.*

*Photos by Spec. Rachel Sanzo, 42nd Infantry Division*





# ORIENT SHIELD 2010

From Soldiers to Goodwill Ambassadors

## Taking Care of Exercise Participants is Number One Priority

Story and photos by Spec. Jimmy Bedgood,  
42nd Inf. Div.

**OTOMO BARRACKS, JAPAN** -- Making sure the Soldiers of Orient Shield have what they need to be both efficient and proficient is what the 83rd Ordnance Battalion does to help make this bilateral field training exercise a success.

"We're not just Soldiers, we are goodwill ambassadors," said 1st Sgt. William E. Walker, Orient Shield Logistics Task Force 1st Sergeant and an ammunition specialist with the 83rd Ordnance Headquarters at Torii Station in Okinawa, Japan.

"We lose so much when we are reluctant to interact with one another. We should always remain proficient and efficient as a whole, with one common goal," Walker said.

The exercise includes approx. 300 participants from 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, NY Army National Guard, the 83rd Ordnance Battalion and the 8th Theater Support Command with US Army Japan and supporting elements.

"There are lots of moving parts," said Capt. Andre R. Fields, Camp Commandant at Otomo barracks. "Little things can get you down. Everything from running out of toner or toilet paper...you can't let anything fall."

The 83rd also provides support for postal services, laundry, transportation and Morale Welfare and Recreation services such as TV, internet and ping pong to Soldiers. But there are many more crucial duties they perform that go on behind the scenes.

"We provide minute to minute accountability of Soldiers," said Sgt. Tony J. Donaldson, a human resources specialist with the 83rd Ordnance Battalion, Kure, Japan.

"We post and report an account of Soldiers to US Army Japan and they report to the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force daily. It contributes greatly to the exercise."

Orient Shield is accomplished through joint military decision making processes like that of the 83rd Ordnance Battalion.

"Without logistical support, the maneuver elements are unable to function for very long," Donaldson added.

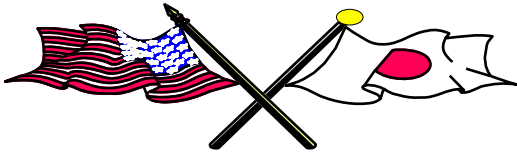


*Master Sgt. George A. Lee, 83rd Ordnance Bn., Okinawa, Japan, coordinates all transportation requirements for personnel supporting Orient Shield. (above)*

*Spec. Marcus P. Coleman, an automated logistics specialist with the 83rd Ordnance Battalion, Okinawa, Japan provides computer technical support to Staff Sgt. Angel Vega, Spec. Hector M. Perez and Spec. Eric R. Collazo at Orient Shield's Moral Welfare and Recreation room.*







## ORIENT SHIELD 2010

Signed, Sealed & Delivered

### California Army National Guard Moves Mail for Orient Shield



*Staff Sgt. Eliezer Troche, a postal clerk with the 376th AG Company, California Army National Guard from San Diego, Calif. Assists Lt. Col. Kuno P. Zimmermann, a physician with the Jefferson City, Missouri Army National Guard Medical Detachment ship a package home from Otomo Barracks, Japan during Orient Shield.*

Story and photo by Spec. Jimmy Bedgood, 42nd Inf. Div.

**OTOMO BARACKS, JAPAN** — As things shape up, things ship out at Orient Shield, when US and Japanese soldiers work together to enhance relations and to support the security interests of friends and allies in Japan.

Soldiers put there stamp of approval on Orient Shield by taking advantage of postal services offered at Otomo Barracks in Japan.

During a break in training, US Soldiers got something to write home about. Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, NY Army National Guard and exercise support personnel left the field for a day. Escorted by their Japanese counterparts, Soldiers participated in a cultural exchange day by visiting Kyoto, Japan.

"It's good when the Soldiers can interact with the Japanese and the Japanese can interact with them," said Master Sgt. George A. Lee, 83rd Ordinance Battalion,

Okinawa, Japan, and Transportation Officer during the exercise responsible, in part, for getting Soldiers mail off base to the US.

According to Lee, Orient Shield's fast, cheap and convenient postal service is a sign of the times: he says it helps make relations from Japan to the US, not just a mission in the field, but a bilateral reality.

"Everybody benefits: our actions are opening the eyes of people all over the world."

Lee says the eye opener of Orient Shield happens with Soldiers: who interacted on the field, off the field: in Kyoto with Japanese civilians and, at last, signed, sealed and delivered from the base post office to family and friends in the US, who get an eye full.

"The Military's mail system has really improved since I joined the military 23 years ago," said Lee. "I love the mail system at Otomo Barracks, it helps the Soldiers' moral," he said.

Staff Sgt Erica Troche a, human resource specialist and postal clerk with the 376 Adjutant General Company, California Army National

Guard in San Diego, helped provide postal services to Soldiers during Orient Shield. She witnessed first hand the benefits the postal service on base has on Soldiers.

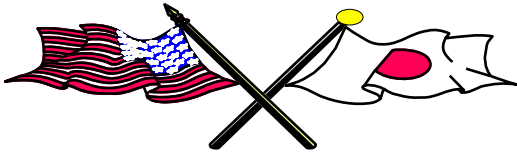
"When Soldiers go to town and experience the culture they buy gifts," she said. "It's easier for them to ship their gifts home: it's less luggage they have to carry,"

The benefits of giving are comparable to receiving mail, according to Tomoko Matsumoto, a postal clerk at Camp Zama, Japan, who helped Soldiers at Orient Shield ship and receive mail and packages.

"The Soldiers feel happy when they receive mail from family members and friends. The ability for Soldiers to ship and receive packages and mail is convenient," said Matsumoto, who has been working in the post office at Camp Zama for the past five years

"Soldiers really love that there is a postal office here. They know what is better to ship or better to carry home," she said.



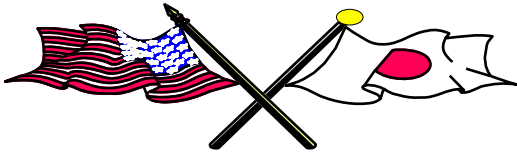


# ORIENT SHIELD 2010

Cultural Exchange - Kyoto, Japan







# ORIENT SHIELD 2010

Cultural Exchange - Friendship Hall

