



HQ, 42d Infantry Division
US Army Pacific and Yama Sakura 57
Camp Higashi-Chitose, Hokkaido Japan
YAMA SAKURA FACT SHEET

Exercise Yama Sakura 57, Camp Higashi-Chitose, Hokkaido, Japan

What is it?

Exercise YAMA SAKURA 57 is a regularly-scheduled U.S./Japan bilateral exercise co-hosted by the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Forces and U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC). Yama Sakura (Japanese for Mountain Cherry Blossom), is a full-spectrum operations (FSO) focused combined, command-post exercise (CPX) with U.S. and +Japanese Self-Defense Forces focused on the defense of Japan. This year Japan's Northern Army will host the exercise at Camp Higashi-Chitose on Hokkaido from Dec. 7-12, 2009. The exercise is designed to promote cooperation among the two militaries while sharing training, cultural exchanges and improving partnership readiness. Approximately 1,500 U.S. military personnel and 3,500 JSDF personnel are participating this year.

What has the Army done?

This year the U.S. Army Pacific's Contingency Command Post, (CCP) and I Corps (Forward) will form the core of the command and control element for U.S. Forces. This will be the first training deployment for the Japan-based I Corps (Forward.) This exercise exemplifies a continued commitment by the U.S. and Japan to work as dedicated partners in support of the U.S./Japan Security Alliance.

What is the New York Army National Guard's role in the exercise?

This year the New York Army National Guard deploys the 42d Infantry Division Headquarters as the command and control element for Army ground forces in the

combat division in the combat simulation exercise. More than 100 Soldiers from across New York State will participate in the exercise in Japan and another 60 as exercise support role-players in Fort Lewis, Washington.

The 42d Infantry Division Headquarters, based in Troy, N.Y., includes two tactical command posts for the controlling high-intensity combat operations. The two command posts, one from Buffalo, N.Y. and the other on Staten Island in New York City, will provide key staff functions for the command post exercise during Yama Sakura 57.

What continued efforts does the Army have planned for the future?

Exercise Yama Sakura is a rare opportunity in today's Army that adds value in the training arena as it is the only scenario available in the Army that provides a venue for a JFLCC Headquarters to exercise Full Spectrum Operations (FSO) in a supported exercise with a multi-lateral treaty partner using a scenario against a more conventional enemy threat. Next year, I Corps, based in Fort Lewis, Wa. will be the training audience.

Why is this important to the Army?

This exercise is proof of the strength of our close, long-standing relationship with Japan and the Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces. As we prepare to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the U.S. and Japan, Yama Sakura shows how we are looking to the future and continuing to deepen our strong ties of mutual support and friendship.

Resources: <http://www.usarpac.army.mil/yamasakura.asp>