

# THE ORIENT SHIELD

ORIENT SHIELD 2004

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## Opening Ceremony Commences Orient Shield

by Dennis Lopic

**KUMAMOTO, Japan** – Standing at attention in the cool autumn sun, more than 1200 soldiers from the U.S. Army and the Japan Ground Self Defense Force stood in formation for the opening ceremony of Orient Shield 2004.

The ceremony commenced Orient Shield, a battalion-sized bilateral field training exercise. It's designed to enhance mutual respect and understanding between the JGSDF and the U.S. Army and demonstrate the two force's ability to fight together in combat. The exercise demonstrates the United States' commitment to the defense of Japan against external aggression.

Nearly 700 U.S. soldiers will train with the JGSDF, the fifth such field training exercise since 1998. The soldiers are "wolfhounds" – the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, Hawaii. Their counterparts in the exercise are the 43rd Infantry Regiment of the JGSDF, Western Army.

Lt. Col. Walter Piatt, 2-27<sup>th</sup> commander,

said the training illustrates the two nations' soldiers' similarities, not their differences.

"We are more alike than we are different. We share the same hardships and face the same uncertainties – because we choose this life we love, when danger beckons we will answer, as only soldiers can," Piatt said.

From the podium, Lt. Gen. Yoshinohil Saki, JGSDF Western Army commander, emphasized the real-world training provided by the exercise during his opening remarks.

"This exercise is a great opportunity not only to strengthen the relationship between the U. S. Army and the Japanese Ground Defense Force, but also to train the units and soldiers to accomplish the mission under severe situations," he said.

Others echoed Saki's sentiments.

"This ceremony will serve as the foundation for the coming weeks training. This training is especially important because the historic wolfhound battalion is in the midst of preparations for an anticipated deployment to Afghanistan. It



by Dave Jennings

**Two soldiers display their home nation's colors during the opening ceremony at Orient Shield 2004.**

is imperative that these soldiers seize every training possible to hone their  
(see *Ceremony* page 2)

## Wolfhounds welcomed

by Jessica Abner

**KUMAMOTO, Japan** — Spirits were high as Japanese and American soldiers joined forces for a night of fun and festivities after the opening ceremony for Orient Shield 2004. Maintaining tradition, the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force hosted the welcome party for their American counterparts and introduced them to different aspects of Japanese culture.

The evening began with the time-honored breaking of two sake barrels and then a loud "Kampai!" or "Cheers" echoed throughout Party Hall. During the evening, soldiers enjoyed customary food and drinks while the Japanese drum team, Hattoku Daiko, and traditional dancers provided entertainment.

**"I think it brings the Japanese and United States together as one"**

"It's a good way to kick everything off and get everyone on the same level," said Staff Sgt. Rusty Watts, squad leader, C. Co., 2-27<sup>th</sup>. "Everything's pretty much different from what I'm used to in Hawaii, it's just a new experience."

"I think it brings the Japanese and United States together as one," said Sgt. Brian Mickles, squad leader, A. Co., 2-27<sup>th</sup>. "It's a new experience for a lot of guys because they've never had relationships with people in a foreign country."



by Kirk Wilson

**Japanese and American soldiers gather in Kumamoto's party hall to enjoy a night of fun and entertainment. The welcome party helps the two military contingents learn more about each culture, while building trust, confidence and friendships.**

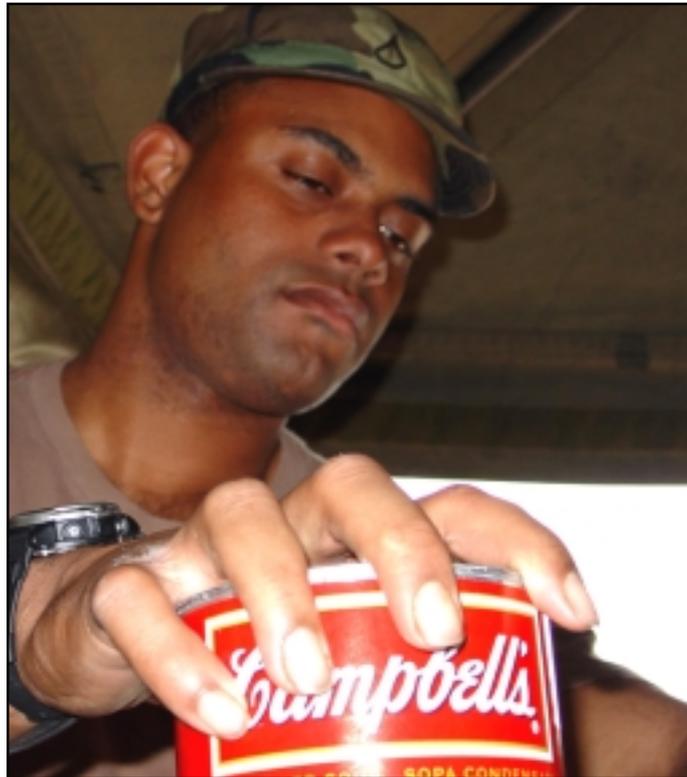
Establishing good relations is essential when training with different military contingents. Many soldiers walked away from the party with more than cultural awareness, they walked away with new friends. ❖

# Cooks put spice in Orient Shield

by Dave Jennings

**OYANOHARA, Japan** — Eleven soldiers hit the ground at the Orient Shield 04 cantonment area without much idea of what food preparation conditions to expect, but they needed to push out the first meal for the original 400 personnel in 36 hours.

Mission accomplished!



by Dave Jennings

**Pfc. Lionel Everfield, cook, 2-27th Inf. Reg., grabs some ingredients to prepare dinner for more than 700 troops at the Camp Oyanohara dining facility.**

“We made it work because we have good leadership,” said Chicago-native Spc. Excell Calhoun, cook, HHC, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 27<sup>th</sup>

Infantry Regiment, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Hawaii.

“As a whole it’s going pretty well. It could be improved by letting us know before we get here what food preparation conditions we will be planning for,” he said.

Feeding an army giant quantities is a giant task; every morning 650 servings of eggs, along with 230 pounds of sausage are cooked. The most consumed food item is coffee, which is served at every meal at the rate of 50 bags daily. The infamous T-rations have been replaced by heat and serve, also known as pre-packaged meals. A-rations are fresh meals served at breakfast and dinner.

Sgt. Omar Lawrence, second first cook of HHC, 2-27, says his cooks report for duty at 2 a.m. daily, to have breakfast ready at 6:30 a.m. for 700 troops.

“Having garrison equipment in the field is one thing that makes this different from other missions I’ve been on,” said Lawrence.

According to Lawrence, they have 12 different meals planned, and the one destined to be the favorite is the bilateral BBQ which will be served at the Orient Shield 2004 closing ceremony.

Lawrence wanted the soldiers who eat at the dining facility to know the cooks take great care to ensure the troops enjoy their grub.

“We are ensuring that you get the right meals so you can do the mission you came here to do,” he said.

In addition to ensuring that the troops are well fed, Lawrence wanted to send this shout out to his hometown of Miami: “Japan is great. I recommend that you visit because it’s a beautiful country,” he said.

Pvt. Vance Hunt, wolfhound cook and Madison, Wis., native, said working in Japan is a real treat since this is his first mission, and he’s always wanted to come to Japan. “Being here in Japan is a great experience, everyone should come visit,” said Hunt.

Working in the dining facility is hot, tiring, and hard work. It’s one of those services that is essential, yet under valued.

“All we want is to be appreciated,” said Calhoun.

“It’s hard working back in the kitchen, getting 3 hours sleep and getting burned. We work hard to make sure they eat. It makes me feel good when someone says ‘thanks’,” he said. ❖

*(Ceremony continued from page 1)*

skills,” said Col. Joseph P. Manning, deputy commander, U. S. Army Japan.

Despite possible future challenges facing the soldiers, they were thankful for the courtesies extended to them.

“This is put together very well. They’re going out of their way to accommodate us,” said 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Trent Hall, C-Co., 2-27, platoon leader.

Hall wasn’t just referring to the traditional welcome the soldiers received.

“We’re not used to the tent city set-up by the Japanese. Normally, we set up our own tents when we go to the field,” he said.

In addition to exchanging doctrinal concepts, skills and knowledge, Orient Shield is designed to provide opportunities to develop long-lasting personal friendships between U.S. and Japanese soldiers and civilians.

One way this is being accomplished is by giving soldiers the opportunity to participate in the home visit program.

During the home visit program soldiers travel to local Japanese families’ homes to break bread and learn about Japanese culture. Soldiers are briefed on Japanese culture, simple etiquette and attire. If all goes well, they will have the opportunity to develop life-long friendships.

Those not participating in the home visit program can participate in cultural tours into Kumamoto and the surrounding area. Tour guides will provide insight to make soldiers’ visits memorable. ❖

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# Wolfhounds visit Holy Family Home

by Mike Westerfield  
Public Affairs Office, 25th Infantry Division

**OSAKA, Japan** — Broad smiles and bright eyes of children greeted seven lucky 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division soldiers as they arrived here to visit the Holy Family Home orphanage in Osaka, Japan.

The soldiers visited the children en route to Operation Orient Shield, an annual bilateral training exercise with the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force.

The 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment “wolfhounds” have been supporting the Holy Family Home with a continuous flow of cash, supplies, visits and love since 1949. Several times a year, packages of clothing and toys are shipped from wolfhound soldiers in Hawaii. Every summer, several children come to live with battalion soldiers for a few days and every winter, soldiers visit the children’s home during the Christmas holiday season.

Catholic nuns of the order of Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent DePaul established the home in 1935. However, economic conditions in Japan after WW II left the home in dire need of food and medicine. Many of the children living at the home died from malnutrition and disease, a U.S. soldier saw the suffering of these children and wanted to make a difference.

The wolfhounds were serving in Japan after World War II as part of the occupation force. In 1949, Hugh O’Riley, the regimental sergeant major, heard about the children’s plight at the home and took the initiative to start a program for their needs, and soon, the entire battalion was involved. Soldiers made improvements to the buildings and collected cash and supplies for the home, and word of the soldiers’ efforts soon spread.

Impressed by the soldiers’ compassion for the children of their former enemy, Akira Aoyama, a successful Japanese businessman allied with the wolfhounds in their bid

to make the orphanage a more welcoming and nurturing place.

“This started as a story of two men, former enemies, and how they were drawn together by their compassion for children,” said Lt. Col. Walter Piatt, 2-27 commander. “The friendships that developed will last forever and are felt by all the wolfhounds. I don’t foresee any end to our support for this home.”

For some soldiers, this visit marked a first time to see the home they had heard so much about. “Everyone knows about the wolfhounds and Holy Family Home. Even if you’re not a wolfhound you hear about it,” said Pfc. Filiberto Salazar-Andrade, infantryman, HHC, 2-27. “We hear about it all the time.”

The wolfhounds started their first day with the children touring Osaka Castle. Each soldier escorted one child under the watchful eye of Sister Suzanne McMahon, head nurse.

The children behaved as well as young children can. Giggles and chatter filled the crisp air as the soldiers and children shared a day of fun and happiness.

“The kids can turn anything into a game, even walking,” said Pfc. Bret Bailey, infantryman, Co. A, 2-27. “They are so well behaved and have so much fun.”

After the tour, burgers and fries, the soldiers went to the home to see the facilities. They visited sections of the home for infants, toddlers and grade school children. The soldiers got to meet some of the youngest children and see the care and facilities provided for them.

Part of that care includes education. The home provides preschool teaching by qualified



by Mike Westerfield

**After reassembling the building-block monkey, Sgt. Maj. Bert A. Bautista, command sergeant major, 2-27 Inf. Reg., lifts his battle buddy and sprints for the finish line.**

teachers. The children can read before attending nearby elementary schools. Children old enough to attend elementary school walk there with sisters and staff members.

While the older children were at school, the wolfhounds got to know the younger children a bit better.

“This was the best.” Said Bailey. “Kids aren’t afraid to show affection. To have one come up to you and hug you feels good.”

“These kids just look up to us,” said Salazar. “They know about us and get all excited when they see us. When they play with us it’s all screams.”

The soldiers next visited Aoyama for dinner. The wolfhounds experienced fine dining at one of the best restaurants in Osaka. The formal event included an exchange of gifts and promises to continue their friendship and support of the home.

The soldiers also expressed how the visit to the home affected them.

“Honestly, I fell in love with Mikachan,” said Sgt. Nathan Shockley, infantryman, Co. B, 2-27. “If I could, I’d stuff her in my duffle bag and take her home with me.” ❖



by Mike Westerfield

**Soldiers walk hand-in-hand with their new friends as they prepare to tour Osaka castle.**

# The Chaplain's Field Kit

This proverb affirms the need to be prepared for battle. Daily, you do everything conceivably possible to make sure you are ready for that day when you may find yourself at war. You run to make yourself physically fit.



Chaplain Joseph Caldwell  
35th Supply and Service - USARJ

You fire your weapon to make sure you are a good shot. You practice, and practice, AND PRACTICE crew drills until you could

do them in your sleep. When you deploy you spend hours setting up defenses and days and weeks improving them. You worry over supply chains and you work meticu-

***“The horse is prepared for battle, but victory belongs to the LORD.”***

***Proverbs 21:31***

lously to update battle plans.

All of this is necessary preparation. But ultimately battle success comes down to whether or not you have the force of character and the moral certainty to step up and get the job done when it comes time to pull the trigger. This character and moral certainty, to a large extent, comes from our

spirituality. Those with a firm sense of personal beliefs, who have taken the time to work through those beliefs, are best equipped to perform on the battlefield.

As a Christian I believe that God honors our nations commitment to freedom and personal liberties. I am convinced that our nation's commitments around the world are motivated by a sense of justice and humanity. I believe that God will go with me and will stand beside me no matter the circumstances.

All these things I believe equip me for anything I may face on the battlefield. Victory does indeed belong to the LORD. Those closest to their beliefs will find themselves not only prepared, but also victorious, when the time comes to “step up and pull the trigger.” ❖

## News you can use...

by Dave Jennings

- **Finance and money exchange** hours are 1500 to 2300 and is located in building 15. Soldiers can cash up to \$200 per week. The exchange rate is 105:1, but finance will not accept yen.
- Located in building 14, the **Morale Support** hall is available to soldiers from 1500 to 2300. Soldiers can access the internet, library, games and a big screen television. Morale Support is also in Friendship Tent.
- The **Japanese market** is open from 0900 to 2100 and accepts yen only.
- If you consume **Alcohol**, you must be 20 years old, and you may not drink within eight hours of the duty day.

- The **Dining Facility** serves breakfast from 0600 to 0800, MRE lunch, dinner from 1700 to 1900.
- The **Naval Exchange** is open from 1400 to 2100 and accepts cash and credit cards.
- **Sick call** hours are 0500 to 0730, however, the aid station is open 24 hours. Soldiers can ride the shuttle bus between tent city and the aid station. DSN #5606. Combat Lifesaver recertification is available.
- The **Post Office** hours are 1400 to 2200 Monday through Saturday. Postal service excludes express mail, registered mail and money orders. Checks and credit cards are not accepted.
- **Showers** are open from 0630 to 0900, 1300 to 1400 and 1800 to 2200 ❖



(Left) Lt. Col. Walter Piatt, commander, 2-27th Inf. Reg., and Sunao Kosugi, Japanese commanding officer, prepare to honor the tradition of breaking the sake barrel to commence the welcome party. The Japanese Ground Self Defense Force hosted the party for the American soldiers participating in bilateral training at camp Oyanohara.

Photo by Jessica Abner

(Right) “Wolfhound” soldiers of the 2-27th Infantry Regiment practice tactical maneuvers during a training exercise conducted at the Oyanohara training camp. This training prepares the soldiers for potential deployments.

Photo by Dave Jennings

