

# THE ORIENT SHIELD

ORIENT SHIELD 2004

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## Medics participate in joint training exercise



by Jessica Abner

**OYANOHARA, Japan** — As the sun beats down, reeds and long grass, sway in the wind where soldiers from the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force are imbedded. Cries of help pierce the serene countryside and the JGSDF medics respond to a simulated field casualty. After the JGSDF medics complete the scenario, the roles are reversed and the 2nd Bn., 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Reg., 25th Inf. Div. medics run through their plan of action. This field exercise is one portion of the bilateral training between the JGSDF and the 2-27<sup>th</sup> Infantry conducted here.

This major training event is essential to both contingents, according to Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Hall, medical platoon sergeant, 2-27<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

“This exercise is so important because the Japanese are one of our counterparts now and we might be fighting side-by-side with them during one of our future deployments,” said Hall. “If we have a better understanding of what they’re doing and they have a better understanding of what we’re doing, then it will help us perform and work together.”

Working together provides the soldiers a chance to examine the similarities and differences in the way the two contingents operate. The soldiers covered different techniques including first line treatment with the combat lifesaver, platoon medic, company medic, evacuation team or ambulance and the battalion aid station.

“The techniques are very similar, but some of our techniques are a little more advanced because they don’t have as much field experience as we have,” said Hall. “We have similar concepts, from the way we carry and treat our patients, to the way we do manual carries.”

Manual carries are performed when the litter — a long, flat carrying device — is not present. Soldiers spent time going over different manual carries, such as the fireman’s carry, two man arm carry and forehead seat carry with their counterparts. The medics also took time to integrate soldiers from both contingents to gain more hands-on practice.

(see *Medics* page 2)

During a joint field training exercise, Pfc. Shane Dobson, medic, 2-27<sup>th</sup> Infantry, along with Nisou (Sgt. 1st Class) Yukihiro Tazume, and Gunso (Sgt.) Makoto Rokubui, medics, 43rd Medical Platoon, carry a field patient to the casualty containment area.

by Jessica Abner

## Logistics Task Force Supports Orient Shield

by Dave Jennings

**OYANAHARA, Japan** — One of the factors contributing to Orient Shield ‘04’s success is the 10<sup>th</sup> Area Support Group’s commitment to having the infantry covered by providing several essential services. These services include the areas of finance, medical and postal through the 35<sup>th</sup> Logistics Task Force, which pulls together different services from different units and locations to work under one umbrella.

Logistics Task Force 35 is the command and control element for all classes of supply, site support management and life support activities for the base camp at Orient Shield. LTF 35 consists of several elements

from several units under USARJ such as the 10<sup>th</sup> ASG, 505<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Battalion, 25<sup>th</sup> Postal and Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine Pacific, according to Capt. Mark Young, site support commander, 35<sup>th</sup> Supply and Service Battalion, Sagami Depot, Japan.

Transportation and vehicle maintenance is one of the many support services handled by the 35<sup>th</sup> S&S Bn. Master Sgt. Donald Sciria, senior maintenance supervisor, 35<sup>th</sup> S&S Bn., said the 35<sup>th</sup> S&S Bn. provides vehicles for the infantry during this field training exercise.

“It takes two days to ship our vehicles

by truck from Sagami Depot, and we’re responsible for on and offloading everything ourselves,” he said.

The 35<sup>th</sup> brought 22 vehicles and pieces of large equipment for Orient Shield, including Humvees and generators. So far, they’ve had only one breakdown. Sciria says that it was good for the task force to supply a couple of their own mechanics, and Orient Shield ‘04 is one of the better missions he’s been on.

Sciria consistently urges soldiers to perform their daily preventive maintenance checks and services, and credits PMCS dis-

(see *Logistics* page 2)

(Logistics continued from page 1)

cipline as a factor in the low number of vehicle breakdowns.

Some 35<sup>th</sup> soldiers recognized the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force for much of their success.

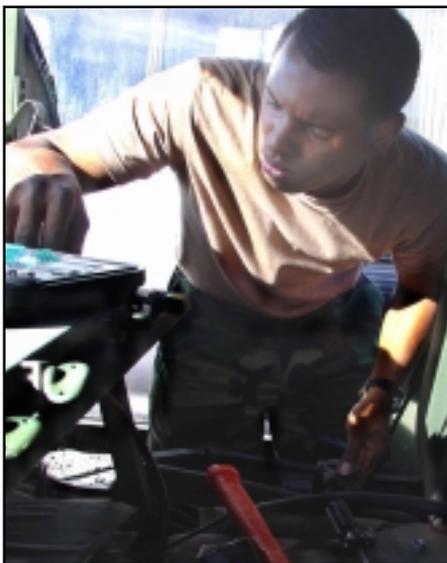
***“It takes two days to ship our vehicles by truck from Sagami Depot”***

According to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Vincent Tatum, administration logistics operations cell officer, 35<sup>th</sup> S&S Bn., the JGSDF has been helpful in several aspects of this FTX, including going above and beyond the call of duty by giving hundreds of blankets to the infantry because their supplies had not arrived yet.

“In addition to giving us a place to stay, the Japanese gave us heaters and served us meals in the Japanese dining facility,” he said.

Sciria also had positive things to say about living and working here in Japan.

“Being here in Japan is an excellent opportunity professionally and personally. The Japanese are the friendliest people I’ve encountered,” he said. ♦



by Dave Jennings

**Sgt. John Watkins, light wheel vehicle mechanic, 35th Supply and Service Battalion, Sagami Depot, Japan changes a humvee battery.**

# The Chaplain’s Field Kit

Have you ever paid attention to the stuff that you have in your pockets following a field problem. If you are the average soldier

I would guess that you hoard any number of things from your M R E s alone. You probably store napkins, wet wipes, chicklets,

and matches to name a few. At the time these items seem very important but once you arrive home they are quickly discarded. The way field problems affect us are similar. While we are in the middle of a field ex-

ercise it is easy to collect bad feelings toward those we live with day in and day out. We can grow tense from the

demands of training, angry over little things, bored, and depressed. But like those items in our pockets these are merely things that we collect here that should be easily discarded when we return to our normal routines. The problem occurs when we allow these emotions to build up and when we transfer them to things that are happening at

***“We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair, persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.”***

**2 Corinthians 4:8,9**



Chaplain Joseph Caldwell  
35th Supply and Service - USARJ

home. When speaking to your wife and kids make sure you aren’t transferring anger and frustration from the exercise to them. When you return home leave what happened here behind you. Take time to clear all the garbage out of your emotional pockets. Your chaplains are here to help. ♦

(Medics continued from page 1)

When given the chance to work hands-on with soldiers in a different country, it’s a good opportunity to learn new techniques, according to Pfc. Michael Longhenry, combat medic, 2-27<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

“It’s always good to see how somebody else does things,” said Longhenry. “You might see them do something you can incorporate into your training.”

According to Hall, morale was high at the conclusion of the field training exercise and the event permits him to perform the most rewarding aspect of his job.

“I get to mentor and groom 27 medics to

have the combat focus, the warrior ethos, and I can train them as well as I think they need to be trained do their job,” said Hall.

Hall was not only proud of his soldiers, he was impressed by how the Japanese medics performed during the field training exercise.

“I would like to conclude by saying the Japanese soldiers are very cooperative and focused,” said Hall. “Their motivation to learn our skills and our job made our medics more enthusiastic about the training and I think that can benefit any unit that goes through this type of training.” ♦



by Jessica Abner

## Fun Fact

Mount Aso is actually five volcanoes, of which the highest is Mount Takadake, in the world’s largest

caldera. Although one of the peaks, Mount Nakadake, is highly active, there is a cablecar to its summit. The peaks rise out of a landscape of green meadows that cover the floor of the caldera creating an atmosphere that is pastoral and primeval. ♦

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# Photos from Orient Shield '04



by Kirk Wilson

Sgt. Juan Maya instructs Pfc. Seth Gillispie, A-Co., 2-27th Infantry, on where he needs to move during military operations on urbanized terrain (MOUT) training exercise at Oyanohara training area.



by Jessica Abner

Pfc. Michael Longhenry, medic, 2-27th Infantry, evaluates a casualty during a medical bilateral field training exercise at Oyanohara training area.



by Kirk Wilson

Soldiers from A-Co., 2-27th Infantry, maneuver through brush and long grass on the way to their objective.



by Dennis Lopic

Soldiers from C-Co. 2-27 Infantry and the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force conduct a field class during chemical warfare training as a Blackhawk helicopter hovers overhead.



# Mortar Platoon Having a Blast

by Dave Jennings

**OYANOHARA, Japan** - Night arrives with her purple legions, and calm blankets the drowsy battlefield as 11-Charlies prepare to shock the battle zone into quivering submission with their 81-millimeter, high-explosive rounds.

Sitting on the edge of a 3-foot pit blown apart by dozens of high intensity recoil impacts, Sgt. David Stoneroad, mortar, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 27<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Hawaii says the U.S. Army is the world's most nocturnal



by Dave Jennings

**Leading Pvt. Yoshikazu Toyama, JGSDF mortar soldier, cleans a mortar before firing rounds downrange.**

because our night vision capability outpaces the rest of the world.

"We own the night," he said.

The mortar crew of five hardened, efficient infantrymen awaits the next fire mission. During this lull in the din, Pfc. David Craig, mortar, HHC, 2-27 sits like a wound piece of steel waiting to spring into action.

"This is an M-252, 81-millimeter mortar system. The weapon is used for indirect fire and it's highly mobile with the projectile having a high angle," he said.

Craig said he has already benefited from the training. He said he has learned how to make an improved occupational set-up and he found the Japanese fuses slow.

"I'm having a blast!" he said.

Enshrouded by darkness, the fire order comes down and the crew shouts back each part of it in unison for acknowledgement. Seconds later, shock waves ring out in ten-second intervals. The only visible light is the dazzling, split-second muzzle flash as the crew relies upon instinct borne of endless training.

While the U.S. soldiers peppered the battlescape with explosions, the Japanese soldiers lit up the sky like day, firing the



by Dave Jennings

**A U.S. mortar crew from HHC, 2-27th Infantry, supplies indirect suppressive fire during night fire at Oyanohara training area.**

illumination rounds from their mortars.

Leading Pvt. Yoshikazu Toyama, assistant mortar, 43<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, Japanese Ground Self Defense Force, pauses for a minute after cleaning the barrel of his mortar cannon. Toyama said training with the U.S. is beneficial for the Japanese.

"I can use this experience later. The U.S. soldiers are different [from us] because they have experienced real combat. The JGSDF need to learn from them," he said.

Japanese soldiers also said training at night would help them in a real world situation.

"This night-fire training is necessary because the soldiers fight at night. We need to have this bilateral exercise because we're allies. This one is our first, and it's going well. I would like to have another exercise like this with America," said Capt. Tsukio Kamisaka, company commander, 43<sup>rd</sup> Reg., JGSDF.

At the conclusion of the shock waves, fire order chants and muzzle flashes, the night reclaims her throne, and a hush befalls the landscape once again. ❖

## Friendship Run Challenges Soldiers

by Kirk Wilson

**OYANOHARA, Japan** - Sweat and rain mix together covering U.S. and Japanese Ground Self Defense Force soldier's faces as they cheer to motivate the participants during the twenty-seven legs of the Friendship Run here.

Though named a "friendship" run, it is still very much a competition.

The 27 mile, or 43-kilometer race, symbolizes the soldiers of the 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, and the JGSDF's 43<sup>rd</sup> Regiment.

As U.S. and JGSDF soldiers bussed to their respective start points, their commanders began the relay.

The commanders finished the ceremonial first leg together, then the real competition began.

"The Americans are very fast. My leg of the race turned out very well, but it was difficult and challenging for me to beat my American counterpart," said Leading Pvt. Sanada Kazunori, mortar soldier, 43<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, 8<sup>th</sup> Division.

Participants were optimistic at the beginning of the race.

"I'm the fastest there is, the fastest there was, and the fastest there ever will be," said Pvt. Caesar Romero, combat engineer, 65<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Div. Despite Romero's confidence he said he knew the Japanese soldiers excelled in running.

Not only an opportunity to test runner's speed and endurance, the event was a

break from training. Although competition was fierce, the JGSDF prevailed, earning the respect of the U. S. soldiers.

"I did not realize that your team was also the Japanese Olympic team," joked Lt. Col. Joseph Piatt, battalion commander, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

The friendly competition was one more way to build a bridge between Japan and the United States during Exercise Orient Shield 2004.

"It's a great time working with the 43<sup>rd</sup> and the JGSDF, it's just a great example of how we can work closer together," said Maj. Sam Whitehurst, battalion executive officer, 2-27<sup>th</sup> Infantry. ❖

# Photos from Orient Shield '04



*by Chris Coleman*

**Spc. Ross Henderson uses a mirror to create his "battle face."**



*by Dennis Lopic*

**Soldiers from B-Co., 2-27th Infantry, wait in a Blackhawk's propeller wash before moving out during military operations on urbanized terrain training.**



*by Dennis Lopic*

**Ready, aim, fire! Soldiers from A-Co., 2-27th Infantry, practice reflexive fire.**



*by Dennis Lopic*

**Pfc. Joshua Finney, B-Co., 2-27th Infantry, departs a landing zone on his way to the objective during military operations on urbanized terrain (MOUT) training.**



*by Dave Jennings*

**Japanese mortars light up the night with illumination rounds.**



**Blackhawks from the 78th Aviation Bn., depart a landing zone after dropping off soldiers from B-Co., 2-27th Infantry.**

*by Dennis Lopic*

**Pfc. Andrew Webber, 247th MP Det., USA R J, checks his sights before a reflexive fire exercise.**

*by Kirk Wilson*



# Soldiers Say: Training 'Great'

Story and photo by Dennis Lopic

**OYANOHARA, Japan** - A week after the Orient Shield '04 opening ceremony, U.S. and Japan Ground Self Defense Force soldiers have been putting in long hours every day performing a variety of tasks from combat training to meal preparation.

So what do they think of their experience so far?

"I think it's great," said Sgt. Sam Williams, chemical non-commissioned officer, C-Co., 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

Williams believes the U.S. Army can work with the JGSDF even if they can't communicate directly.

"They listen more than they talk," he said.

Some soldiers said they were unsure if one translator per group would be enough to communicate effectively, but the message seems to be getting through, soldiers said.

Sgt. Richard Villanueva, chemical non-commissioned officer, C-Co., 2-27, was concerned about getting information across during bilateral training.

"It's hard enough doing [common task training] in our own army let alone with a language difference," he said.

But some soldiers were pleasantly surprised by their experience.

"What I envisioned was more communication barriers, but it's not as tough as I thought it would be," said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John Carver, chemical officer, C-Co., 2-27.

It's not just U.S. soldiers who agree.

"The training is very good," said Gunso (Sgt.) Hiroka Kawamura, 43<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment, 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, referring to the U.S. Army live fire demonstrations. He said he especially liked the night live fire using the U.S. Army night vision goggles.

"The U.S. scope is lighter and has a better vision than ours," he said. Kawamura said he also learned a lot about the different U.S. Army firing positions.

Besides communications, some U.S. soldiers observed differences in combat tactics or in the type of equipment used.

Spc. Seung Soo Kim, B-Co., 2-27, said he saw similarities and differences in tactics.

"Some [techniques] seem alike and some different compared to our system," he said.

Not all Orient Shield '04 training is bilateral, either. Many leaders are taking advantage of training opportunities during Orient Shield '04.

Master Sgt. Don Sciria, motor sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35<sup>th</sup> Supply and Service Battalion, 10<sup>th</sup> Area Support Group, USARJ, is one of the leaders taking advantage of the ongoing training opportunities. His unit sent soldiers downrange for weapons training on the M-249 squad automatic weapon.

"We've never been able to get training like this before," he said.

Because site support is taking care of the war fighters, "wolfhounds" are free to train the service and support soldiers, according to Capt. Mark E. Young, HHC, 35<sup>th</sup>



**Spc. Seung Soo Kim**  
B-Co., 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Reg.

S & S Bn.

Soldiers said JGSDF support has been crucial. Soldiers say they are impressed by how courteous and thoughtful the Japanese hosts have been.

"From what I've seen, they go out of their way to learn about our culture," Kim said.

Many task force soldiers said they saw the advantage of bilateral training with the JGSDF.

"I really enjoyed getting to know another culture. At first I was a little shy, but we can work as one," said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John Carver, C-Co., 2-27. ♦

## Do's and Don'ts around the JGSDF

Cpl. P.M. Brown, 141<sup>st</sup> Military Battalion

### *Don't Spit*

Spitting is just as low a custom in Japan as it is in the United States. To expectorate (that means "to hock a loogie") in someone's presence is a sign of tremendous disrespect, even if you just hopped off of a "deuce" and you have half the road up your nose and down your throat. The custom of chewing tobacco is relatively unknown in Japan as well. In general, the Japanese are tolerant and will not say it to your face, but they find the habit pretty low brow. If you have to dip, do it away from them, and never-ever-spit into a cup or empty can you are carrying around.

### *Don't Be Too Direct*

To the Japanese it is uncouth to be direct and to the point. Over here, to be cultured and refined you need to dance around an issue before coming to the point. This is often maddening to Americans, especially soldiers, who value directness in a person. The point is, if you are coordinating an activity with a JGSDF counterpart or simply sharing social beverages and want to do some trading (patches, coins, etc.) let them talk it out and wait for them to come to the point in their own good time. To do otherwise will come across as pushy.

### *Thank Them For "The Last Time"*

In Japan it is customary to thank a person when you see them again after not seeing them for a while. Seem weird? Well, it is a little, but it's a fine point of culture here. If you master it, it will make you seem like a high gentleman and person of high breeding. Here's how it works; if you were at the Friendship Hall the last night and you traded beverages with a Japanese soldier and you see him the next day around camp you should say, "Thank you for last evening."

### *One Last Thought*

Many consider the Japanese society one of the politest on the face of the earth. Try to treat our hosts with the same courtesy they have extended to us. ♦

### *Correction*

In the first edition of the Orient Shield we should have identified "Lt. Gen. Yoshinori Saeki" as the the 8th Division Commander, JGSDF and as the breaker of the sake barrel.

*We deeply regret the error.*



