

CAMP ZAMA THROUGH THE YEARS....

2020s

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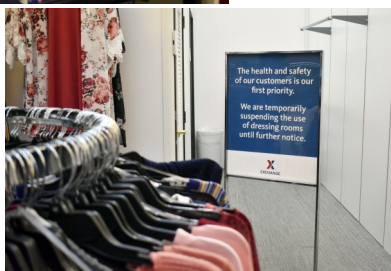
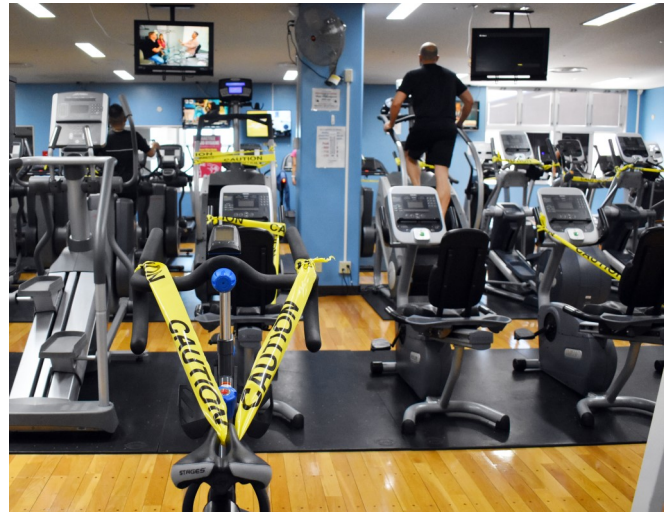
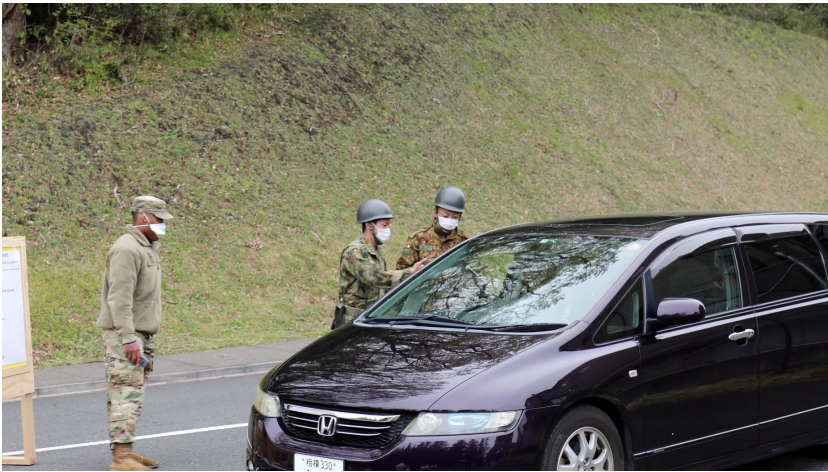
On June 1, 2020, I Corps (Forward) was reassigned into USARJ. This move optimized staff efficiencies, established a Tactical Command Post capability, and maintains bilateral coordination and liaison with the JGSDF's Bilateral Coordination Department in support of the Army in Japan. On the same day, the 35th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, along with the 623rd Mission Control Team, were also realigned under the 10th Support Group.



Japan's largest bilateral command post exercise series, primarily between the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and U.S. Army, held *Yama Sakura 79* Dec. 2-15, 2020. While the number of people for this year's exercise was reduced because of the COVID-19 constrained environment, training was overcome by the largest geographically dispersed virtual training in the exercise's 38 year history. Lt. Gen. Ryoji Takemoto, Western Army commanding general, along with Lt. Gen. Randy A. George and Command Sgt. Maj. Shane E. Pospicil, I Corps commander and commander sergeant major respectively, were prominently on screen at Camp Kengun taking part in daily briefings and planning actions to repel a fictitious adversary.



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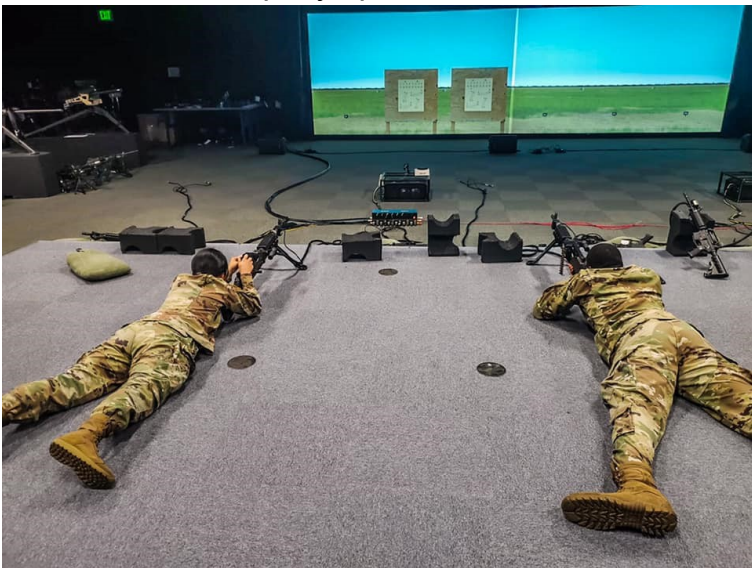


(Above) The cherry trees were starting to blossom on March 27, 2020, but the annual cherry blossom open post event that traditionally draws about 15,000 was cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic. (Below) Two days later, on March 29, a snowfall blanketed Camp Zama, but there was no trace of the snow the next day as warmer temperatures in the low 50's moved back into the area.





U.S. Army Aviation Battalion - Japan Soldiers conduct personnel recovery training Feb. 4-6, 2020, to train downed pilots and crew chiefs how to evade and survive in hostile and austere environments. Personnel recovery planning remains a vital skill in today's U.S. Army for tactical battalion and company operations.



Two 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Soldiers fine-tune their marksmanship proficiency with the Engagement Skills Trainer March 12, 2020, at Sagami General Depot.



A U.S. Army Aviation Battalion-Japan UH-60L Black Hawk helicopter lands on the USS Ashland (LSD-48), which was cruising in Sagami Bay as part of periodic deck landing qualifications Jan. 6, 2021.



Workers from the 78th Signal Battalion's outside plant string fiber optic cable Dec. 9, 2020, for a 311th Military Intelligence Battalion project. The cable was being strung in the U.S. Army Japan headquarters building.



Members of the U.S. Army Japan Band's brass ensemble play a familiar Christmas holiday song Dec. 8, 2020, in the foyer of the U.S. Army Japan headquarters building. The group went to several locations through the Camp Zama area to spread a little holiday cheer especially with the restrictions in place because of the COVID-19 environment.



A rainbow caps U.S. Army Japan's headquarters building following a rain shower Aug. 12, 2020.



Mitsunare Kobayashi, a Department of Public Works painter, repairs a damaged segment of flooring in the U.S. Army Japan building on March 10, 2020.



(Left) A bilateral assembly of U.S. Army and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force helicopters conduct a formation flight with UH-1, UH-60, AH-64, AH-1 helicopters during *Orient Shield 21-2* in July 2021.



Two U.S. Army Landing Craft Utility ships are offloaded in Yokosuka Harbor Nov. 8, 2020, from the chartered heavy lift vessel *Triumph*. The Mechanicsville (LCU-2027) and Molino Del Ray (LCU-2029) were then towed to Yokohama North Dock by U.S. Army tugboats. The two ships were transferred from Kuwait to eventually replace two LCUs then ported in Yokohama. The *Triumph* partially submerged during the operation allowing the two LCUs to be refloated before being towed to Yokohama.



Soldiers, Japanese and American civilian employees, family members, and Japanese workers paused at 2:46 p.m., March 11, 2021 for six minutes to honor the victims of the Great East Japan earthquake and subsequent tsunami. At U.S. Army Japan and outside of buildings throughout the installation scores of people stood in silence reflecting on the tragic loss of life. Ten years ago at 2:46, the ground shook violently for six minutes under a magnitude 9.0 earthquake. Later, Col. Jonathan D. Haight, USARJ deputy commander, gave a talk on that tragic day to those who had come to pay their respects. This tragedy was followed with *Operation Tomodachi*, Japan's largest-ever humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operation.



Sgt. Joshua Pastor, from U.S. Army Japan's assistant chief of staff for intelligence directorate, maneuvers himself through the obstacle course May 11, 2021, during Best Warrior Competition 2021. Pastor was one of 16 Soldiers vying for top honors in the Soldier and noncommissioned officer categories May 11-14 to advance in the annual Army competition.



Specialist Rigoberto Montoya, combat medic specialist, became one of the first three U.S. Army Medical Department Activity-Japan medical personnel to receive the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine Dec. 29, 2020. The other two receiving the first of two doses were Col. Marshall Mendenhall, deputy commander for Clinical Services, and Emiri Elliott, head nurse with family medicine. The U.S. military's initial supply of the Moderna vaccine arrived in Japan Dec. 25 and distributed to Camp Zama and other military installations.

Two Directorate of Public Works, operations and maintenance division, workers remove holiday decorations Jan. 7, 2021. Festive holiday decorations are put up throughout the installation annually to mark the season and give everyone a little holiday cheer.





Three dedicated maintenance staff polish all the brass around the U.S. Army Japan headquarters building at Camp Zama June 24, 2021, including its name on the front. In addition to polishing, the workers also keep the building looking good with their many other duties.



New Japan Ground Self-Defense Force engineer trainees undergo a three month program with the 4th Engineer Group at Camp Zama in July 2021 to learn the basic operational skills of a military engineer. One of their many lessons included connecting two logs crosswise by using various knots to hold them in place.



The last of 16 buildings making up Camp Zama's Hawk Way Housing is demolished July 30, 2021. The four-unit buildings were built in 1983 and housed 64 families. Over the years the units developed serious water intrusion and mold issues and families began to vacate them. The last family left in October 2019. The project and restoration of the area was completed in November 2021.



A 340th Chemical Company Soldier sprays water to decontaminate a UH-60L Black Hawk helicopter Aug. 3, 2021, following a simulated ballistic missile attack on Kastner Army Airfield. The Army Reserve unit was deployed to Japan for nine months to improve chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear capabilities for U.S. Army Japan.



Ten U.S. Army Japan Soldiers completed the Company Commander and First Sergeant Pre-command course Sept. 17, 2021. The one week course is offered twice a year providing background on guidance and information that a new commander or first sergeant may encounter during their tenure in Japan.



The first-ever live firing of a U.S. Army High Mobility Artillery Rocket System in Japan is launched in early July 2021. This launch and 11 others was held at Yausubetsu Training Area in Hokkaido as part of *Orient Shield 21-2*.

Maj. Gen. JB Vowell, U.S. Army Japan commander, pulls a fire hose Nov. 4, 2021, testing the endurance required during a visit to fire station #1.



Japan Ground Self-Defense Force MCV 8x8 High Mobility Combat Vehicles are loaded aboard U.S. Army Landing Craft Utility (LCU-2009) Sept. 23, 2021, at Yokohama North Dock. The LCU was supporting JGSDF Exercise '21, the first JGSDF nationwide exercise of its kind in nearly 30 years. The 26-ton MCVs were later offloaded at Sasebo Naval Base.