

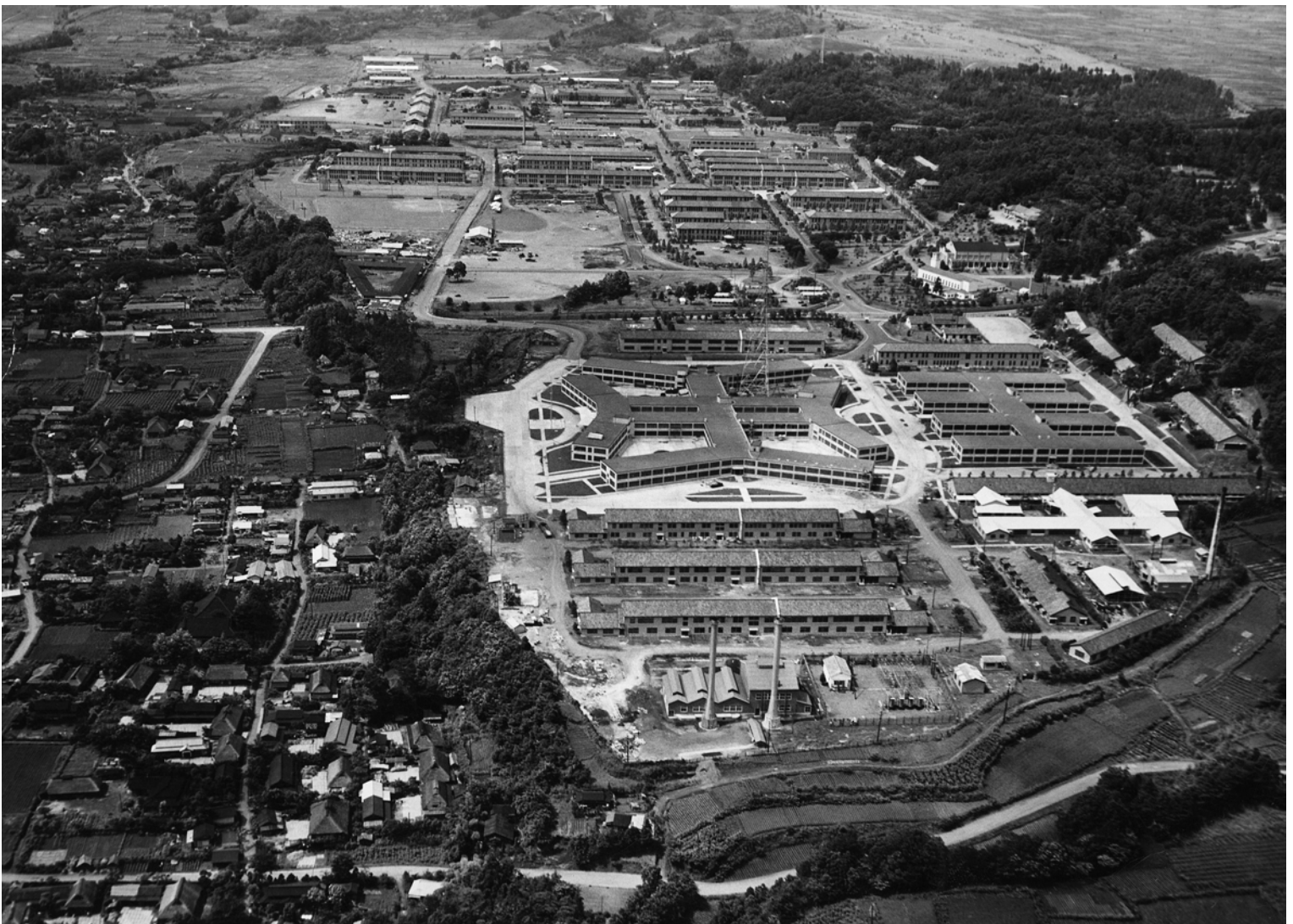
# CAMP ZAMA THROUGH THE YEARS....

## 1950s [From 1952 Reversion]

In 1952 a fire broke out on South Camp Zama destroying five buildings of the former Academy. At that time, U.S. Army Far East Headquarters in downtown Yokohama was searching for a more suitable location in the countryside. Consequently, it was decided to construct a new headquarters building on that location and the command was relocated into what was designated Building 101 in October 1953.

After the outbreak of hostilities in Korea, Camp Zama once again became a staging area for troops including the 1st Cavalry and the 7th, 24th and 40th Infantry Divisions, on their way to Korea.

In 1954, IX Corps was assigned to U.S. Army Forces, Far East, and an airfield was built on the northwest corner of the installation with a 1,500 foot runway. Also, forests, which once enclosed Otakebi Shrine, were cleared for the Chapel Hill housing area and the old maneuver grounds, where Emperor Hirohito watched Academy student exercises, became the golf course.



A view of Camp Zama on July 20, 1953, looking north. Buildings 101 and 102 in the middle would not be occupied until October. Both were designed by Raymond Architectural Design Company with construction done by several large firms including Takenaka, Kashima and Nishimatsu Construction Companies.



A Shinto priest  
blesses  
Building 101  
with salt in  
October 1953  
prior to its  
opening.

The former main  
lecture auditorium  
of Japan's Imperial  
Military Academy  
went through a  
renovation project  
to acquire this new  
face. The theater  
showed two movies  
nightly and a  
matinee each  
Saturday and  
Sunday in October  
1953 when this  
photo was taken.





With family members becoming more common, new housing was springing up throughout Camp Zama and surrounding installations. Houses like these on Sagamihara Dependent Housing Area were opening at a constant pace in 1956.







On May 11, 1955, Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Pion, 392nd Military Police Detachment, shows Maj. James W. O'Neill, Camp Zama Troop Information & Education officer, and Master Sgt. Desker Campbell, detachment first sergeant, the bulletin board he uses to keep troops informed on unit and civilian news.



Personal vehicles coming into Japan pass through Yokohama Pier on their way to Camp Zama and other military installations.





In this December 20, 1953, photo the Otakebi Shrine's original wooden torii remained standing since the Imperial Army Academy days. Over the next three decades it deteriorated and former graduates of the Academy (Kaikosha Association) replaced it with a stone torii and dedicated it December 8, 1985. A plaque detailing the new torii sits on its right side.





(Above) The post chapel, built in 1954, shows prominently in this southwest looking aerial view with buildings 101 and 102 in the background and theater in the foreground.

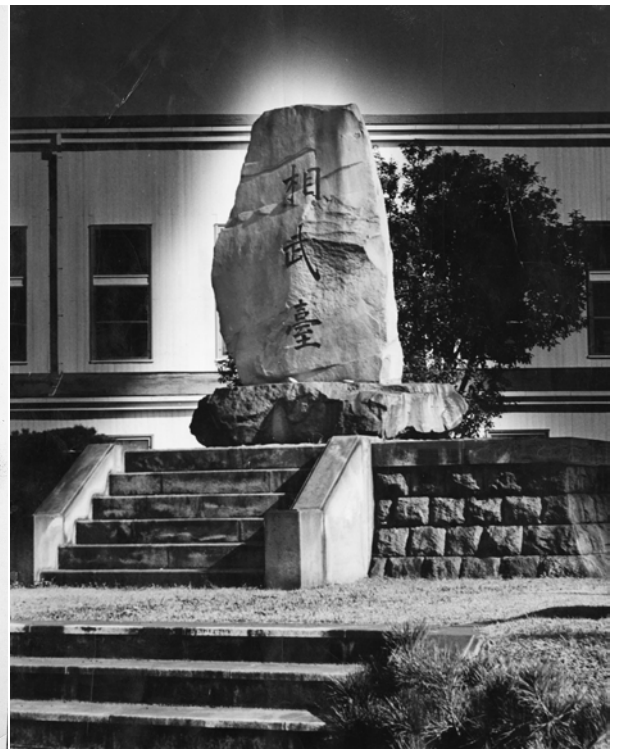


(Right) A military policeman, from the 545th Military Police Detachment, driving a police car on 1956 Camp Zama.





Lieutenant Gen. Charles E. Palmer, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Forces Far East/Eighth Army, presents the keys to the first new home to open at Sagamihara Dependent Housing Area in December 1956 to Lt. Col. Rupert Army and his wife, Mercedes, daughter, Mildred, and son Rupert Jr. Mr. Ishida from Takano Construction Company looks on from the left. These were the first homes opened in Japan since 1950.



Sobudai monument as it appeared on November 24, 1953, with the chapel behind.



Military policemen from Camp Zama's 545th Military Police Guard stand for inspection in 1957.



The installation headquarters building with military equipment on display in the parking lot. The area is now home to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Japan District. The U.S. flag sports only 48 stars in this photo.