



# COURAGE GRAM

Issue 1 - December 6, 2015



## Yama Sakura 69 Begins



Service members from the Japan Self Defense Force and the United States participate in an opening ceremony for Yama Sakura 69 at the Middle Army Headquarters on Camp Itami, Japan, Dec. 5, 2015. More than 5,000 Service members will participate in the annual bilateral training exercise. (U.S. Army photo by Sergeant 1st Class Sadie Routzahn)



Left: Lt. Gen. Junji Suzuki, commander of the Japan Ground Self Defense Force Middle Army, right, and Lt. Gen. Stephen Lanza, I Corps commanding general, left, give their opening statements at the Yama Sakura 69 opening ceremony at the Middle Army Headquarters in Camp Itami, Japan, Dec. 5, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Eliverto V. Larios)

Right: Middle Army Col. Hirasawa and I Corps G2 Col. Parker brief the Yama Sakura staff on the scenario intelligence data. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Daniel Schroeder)

A I Corps Soldier is invited on-stage during a live Karate demonstration at the Friendship Hall during Yama Sakura 69 on Camp Itami, Japan, Dec. 3. The Friendship Hall is a place where JSDF and U.S. Service members relax, share culture, and practice their English or Japanese. The Middle Army hosts many events at the Hall including taiko drum performances, flower arrangements, calligraphy and performances by the I Corps and Middle Army Bands.

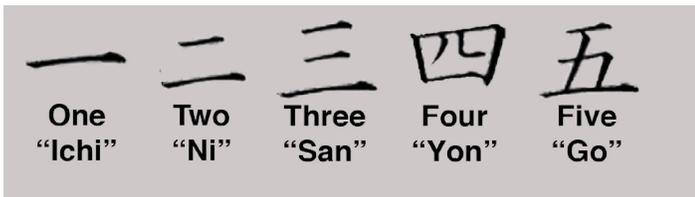


Left: Service members from I Corps and the Middle Army raise their respective Nation’s flags on Camp Itami, Japan. Right: Soldiers from I Corps visit a temple in Nara, Japan during a sponsored cultural tour. (U.S. Army photos by Sgt. Eliverto V. Larios)



**JGSDF Middle Army**

One of five active Armies of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force. It is responsible for the defense of Chūgoku, Kansai, Shikoku and the Southern half of the Chūbu region.



**DFAC Hours**  
**Breakfast:** 0500-0700  
**Lunch:** 1100-1300, MREs available in the DFAC overflow tent  
**Dinner:** 1700-1900

**Laundry**  
 Laundry can be turned in on odd days, and picked up the following odd day.