



Orient Shield 2019

Orient Shield is an annual, bilateral exercise co-sponsored by the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) and U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC). The exercise is designed to enhance Japan-U.S. combat readiness, proficiency and interoperability at the operational level while strengthening bilateral relationships and demonstrating U.S. resolve to support the security interests of friends and allies in the Indo-Pacific region.

Orient Shield 2019 (OS 19) took place Aug. 26 – Sept. 24 across multiple training locations, including Yausubetsu Training Area in Hokkaido, Camp Amami on Amami Island, and Oyanohara Training Area in Kumamoto. More than 1,200 U.S. military personnel and approximately 750 JGSDF personnel participated, exchanging ideas, tactics, techniques and military experiences. OS 19 helped to

- **Train** U.S. ground forces for deployment to Japan in the event of contingencies
- **Exercise** JGSDF and U.S. Army multi-domain and cross domain operations for the defense of Japan
- **Prepare** U.S. forces for combined, multinational and joint Unified Land Operations
- **Increase** Japan-U.S. combat and mission readiness while strengthening the bilateral relationship

For the first time, a multi-domain task force was established for Orient Shield to provide mission command and focus on increasing proficiency in multi-domain operations including, long range precision fires, integrated air defenses, electronic warfare, space, and cyber capabilities.

OS 19 was executed simultaneously and in conjunction with Cyber Blitz 2019 (CB 19) activities on the east coast of the United States. Co-led by the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command's Command, Control, Communications, Cyber, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Center (CCDC C5ISR Center) and the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command's Cyber Center of Excellence (TRADOC CCoE), CB 19 is a discovery experiment that is informing the Army how to perform information warfare across the full spectrum of operations.

Cyber Blitz executed intelligence, information, cyber, electronic warfare and space functions, which in real time supported geo-spatial maneuver and live kinetic fires missions being executed in Japan.

This marked the first time that the Army combined field-based experimentation with an Army service component command tier 1 exercise. It was also the first event to feature bilateral defensive cyber operations with the JGSDF, who sent personnel to Cyber Blitz to operate along with their U.S. Army counterparts at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ.

OS began in 1985 and is focused on bilateral planning, coordination, and building partnership capacity through training. It is the largest annual bilateral ground field training exercise in Japan. Previous OS exercises used to be mainly tactical bilateral field training exercises executed at the battalion level in a JGSDF maneuver area in Japan. The exercise rotates among the five JGSDF regional areas.

OS 19, was conducted in two regional areas of Northern Army and Western Army and was the second time that the Army National Guard participated.

U.S. Army Japan (USARJ) facilitates multilateral cooperation with regional partners and allies through engagements, training, exercises and agreements between the U.S. Government and the Government of Japan to set conditions for successful deterrence and execution of contingency operations. Through bilateral exercises, U.S. Army Japan provides unique Multi Domain Task Force lethal and non-lethal capabilities that support the defense of Japan through integrated multi-domain and cross domain concept development and practices.

Exercises such as OS 19 demonstrate the United States Army's continuing commitment to deepen the strong ties of mutual respect and friendship between the two countries while showing the U.S. Army's commitment to peace and stability of a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

For more information on Orient Shield 19 visit

- <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/USARJ>
- <https://www.dvidshub.net/feature/OrientShield>
- <https://www.facebook.com/OrientShield/>

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