

DDYJ and the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force

By Polly Charbonneau, DDC Command Affairs

The Defense Distribution Depot Yokosuka, Japan (DDYJ) works regularly with the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF), the Japanese Navy.

Recently DDYJ got the opportunity to work with the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force (JGSDF), the Japanese Army, as part of a JGSDF annual training exercise.

The U.S. 836th Army Transportation Battalion provided material handling services to the JGSDF at Yokohama North Pier in Yokohama port. The JGSDF fabricate boxes for equipment at one of the warehouses at North Pier during April to June and send them to California. In California, the JGSDF conduct annual training.

In February and March, the boxes of equipment are shipped back to Japan to be disassembled at the Yokohama warehouses and forwarded to JGSDF warehouses.

This exercise is coordinated under the U.S. Foreign Military Sales program. As a part of the recent container freight station transfer to DDYJ, this material handling services transferred to DDYJ also.



One of the systems DDYJ supports for the JGSDF.



Japanese Ground Self Defense Force (JGSDF) Visit. Conducted a courtesy call with Colonel Mamoru Hachisuka (Commander, JGSDF Central Transportation Management Command) and his staff at Camp Yokohama. DDYJ provides container freight services twice a year for the movement of a missile system for Japanese Army's training exercise in CONUS.

Members of the DDYJ staff were invited to the Central Transportation Management Command headquarters in Yokohama, called Camp Yokohama. This meeting allowed everyone who will be working together a chance to get to know each other as DDYJ and the JGSDF coordinate services during the year.

“This is a big step for DDYJ,” said CDR Scott Thon, SC, USN, DDYJ Commander, “most of our international friendship events are with the JMSDF. The Japanese are very interested in learning about DLA and TRANSCOM (the U.S. Transportation Command) — how do we work together to transport material to our deployed forces. This was an informative and important meeting.”

DDYJ Rocks, Rolls, and Runs

Defense Distribution Depot Yokosuka, Japan (DDYJ) participated in the Yokosuka Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Rock and Roll 10K relay race May 15, 2002. DDYJ entered two teams of four people.

A DDYJ team finished sixth—a very respectable showing considering the number of entries.

The race included both ashore and afloat commands. At the end, all of the participants received a T-shirt.

“I am really proud of our participation and our finish!” said CDR Scott Thon, SC, USN, DDYJ Commander. “The competition was tough but everyone pulled together.”

Good job, DDYJ!



The DDYJ Rock and Roll 10K Team.