

**“No change in state of USARPAC  
USARPAC Commander explains**

LTG Francis Wiercinski, commander of U.S. Army Pacific, gave exclusive interview to Kanagawa Shimbun Company in Itami City, Hyogo Prefecture, where Japan-US bilateral regional army command post exercise “Yama Sakura” training is held on January 30 and said that he does not think there will be a change in the state of USARPAC as Asia Pacific Region is the most important region in terms of reduction of national defense expenditure of US Forces.

He expressed expectation for Camp Zama (Zama, Sagamihara Cities), where USARJ and I Corps Forward are, to become a base to enhance Japan-US cooperation as a direct link will be established when JGSDF’s Central Readiness Force relocates.

He explained readiness for emergency situation saying that USARPAC’s organizational enhancement should enable deployment in the Theatre to places such as Japan, Australia, Philippines, and Thailand if necessary. There will be no visible change in the roles of USARJ bases such as Camp Zama and Sagami General Depot (Sagamihara City).

The Commander is visiting Japan as the US exercise director of “Yama Sakura”. The Eighth Army, US Army Korea, has participated in this exercise for the first time, and Australian military is participating as an observer.

USARPAC has headquarters based in Hawaii State and has 150,000 personnel in the Pacific Ocean area including Japan and Alaska in peace time. Commander Wiercinski has served as unit commander in the war against terror in Afghanistan and in Iraq War and as a commander of USARJ.

(Reporter: Yuuki Takahashi)