



January 26, 2010

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## 'Ichidan' comes home to USARJ

By Amanda S. Kraus  
*USARJ, G5, Host Nation Affairs*

**CAMP ZAMA, Japan** - Renowned master calligrapher Satoru Kobayashi presented Maj. Gen. Francis Wiercinski, commander of U.S. Army Japan and I Corps (Forward), with an original rendering of USARJ's slogan, "Ichidan" during an office call here Jan. 8.

The original artwork has found its home at USARJ headquarters, prominently displayed as an appropriate reminder of its meaning - "one team" or more literally, "one group" in Japanese.

"This is truly an honor," Wiercinski said, "to have a master, such as Mr. Kobayashi create our slogan and present the original. It's perfect, representing unique Japanese culture, and every time someone walks by they'll remember why we're here and what we're all about."

Ichidan became the official USARJ slogan following a leadership conference in 2008 and quickly began to appear on posters, presentations and more. Demand increased and Military Clothing Sales Store manager Masakazu Iwasaki, and supplier Jimmy Matsuda collaborated with USARJ and contacted Kobayashi about designing a logo.

Today that logo now graces USARJ leaders' physical training uniforms, along with T-shirts, ball caps, coins and other mementos available through AAFES and the Military Clothing Sales Store, a symbol that reflects USARJ's bilateral mission and vision.

Kobayashi's designs have appeared in a Louis Vuiton catalogue, numerous Japanese TV and movie productions, as well as restaurants and business logos. He is a graduate and chief of the Waseda University and Tokyo Student calligraphy federations, consisting of students from 10 major Tokyo universities.



**CAMP ZAMA, Japan** - Maj. Gen. Francis Wiercinski, commander of U.S. Army Japan and I Corps (Forward), receives an original rendering of USARJ's slogan, "Ichidan," from renowned master calligrapher Satoru Kobayashi.

*(U.S. Army photo by By Amanda S. Kraus)*

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