

Visiting U.S. Troops at Camp Zama
Date confirmed in [CBS News](#) ("on Saturday [March 10, 2007]")

["Stars and Stripes" \(March 12, 2007\) \(archived\)](#)

Hundreds of fans at this Army post got a peek at the "King of Pop" on Saturday afternoon. Michael Jackson thrilled U.S. troops, their families and Japanese base employees with a brief but electric appearance at the Yano Fitness Center.

Most jammed into the building about two hours before he was flown in on a Black Hawk helicopter from Hardy Barracks in Tokyo. With Jackson favorites such as "Billie Jean," "Beat It," "The Girl is Mine" and "Thriller" playing overhead, the crowd was entertained with trivia questions and a raucous imitation dance showdown.

Screams erupted and camera flashes lit up the gymnasium when Jackson entered shortly after 3 p.m. People stood and flocked toward the roped-off stage, straining for a glimpse of the pop icon.

"It's an honor and a privilege to be here," Jackson told the audience. "You people are among the most special in the world because you have chosen a life of service. Because of you here today and others who have given their lives, we can enjoy our freedom at home. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. And I love you."

The legendary gloved one did a giant loop around the stage. He waved, smiled and blew kisses at fans huddled against the barrier. Then he was ushered away.

Later, Jackson took part in a private promotion ceremony before departing.

["CBS News" \(March 10, 2009\) \(archived\)](#)

Michael Jackson greeted thousands of U.S. troops and their family members at a U.S. Army base south of Tokyo on Saturday, taking a break from days of parties with die-hard fans and well-heeled business people.

About 3,000 troops and their family members gathered at a fitness center at Camp Zama.

Jackson walked around shaking hands and exchanging words to thank them for their service.

"Those of you in here today are some of the most special people in the world," Jackson told the crowd, reading from a statement. "It is because of you in here today, and others who so valiantly have given their lives to protect us, that we enjoy our freedom."

Jackson, 48, arrived in Japan last Sunday for his second trip in less than a year to attend parties, including an extravagant gala held Thursday in Tokyo.

The reclusive pop icon was the guest of honor at the lavish party aimed at a well-heeled business crowd, though the roughly 400 people who showed up were mainly die-hard fans — and more than 100 orphans and handicapped children who were invited for free.

The paying guests each laid out \$3,500 for tickets, which included a buffet dinner, a show featuring several Japanese Michael Jackson impersonators — and a chance to meet, greet and take photos with Jackson.