

4) Progress in the Political Process

The political process in Iraq has made progress smoothly since the establishment of the Iraqi Transitional Government on April 2005. In the wake of establishment of the Constitutional Committee by the National Assembly in May 2005, enthusiastic efforts were made to draft a new constitution, which represented all the communities in Iraq, including the Sunnis who had boycotted the National Assembly elections of January 2005. The draft constitution resulting from this process was approved in an national referendum in October 2005³⁴. The National Assembly elections in December 2005 enjoyed the participation of a majority of Iraqi people, including many Sunnis, and concluded successfully³⁵ without disruption. Iraqi people have continued to make efforts to move the political process ahead, as seen in the process of establishment of the new government encompassing a broad range of political parties. As a result, the new Iraqi government was established in May, which means the political process that was decided by U.N. Security Council Resolution 1546 has been completed. Although Iraq still faces difficult challenges, including restoration of public order, it continues to make efforts to establish a democratic and stable nation under the national reconciliation plan.

5) Efforts of the International Community toward Reconstruction of Iraq

Although reconstruction efforts in Iraq have been made primarily by the Iraqi government, many

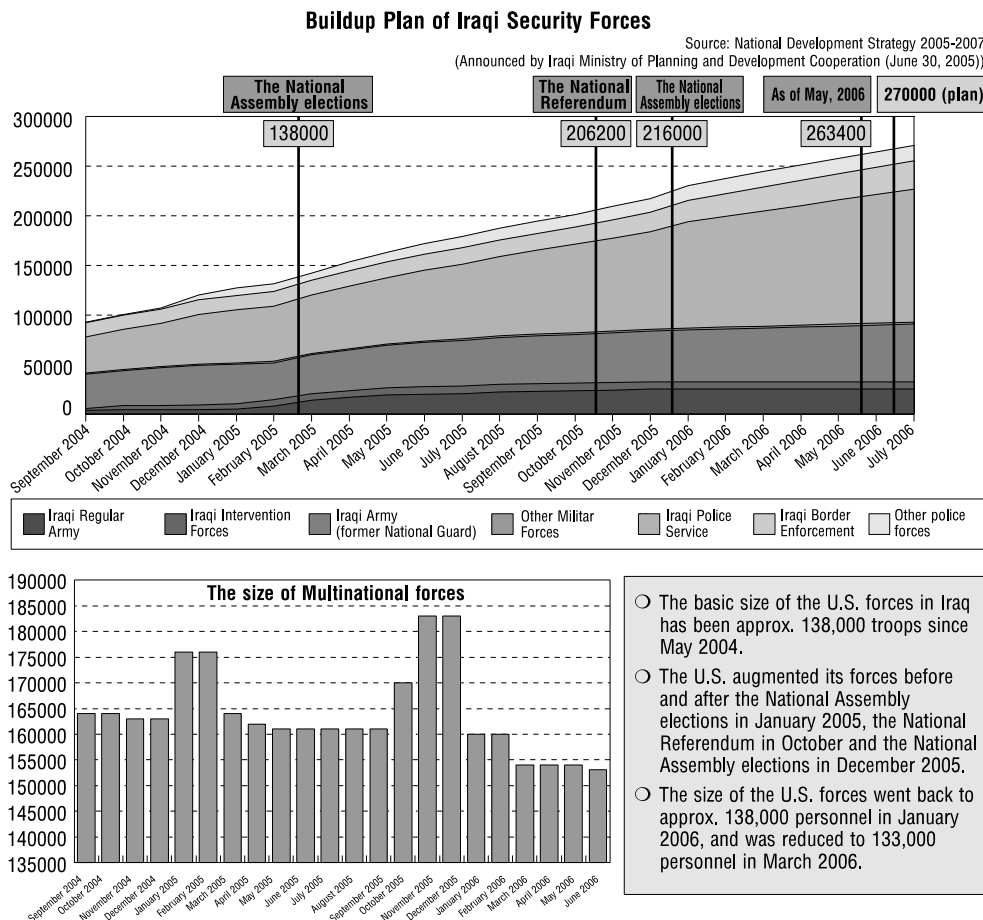


Fig. 1-1-4

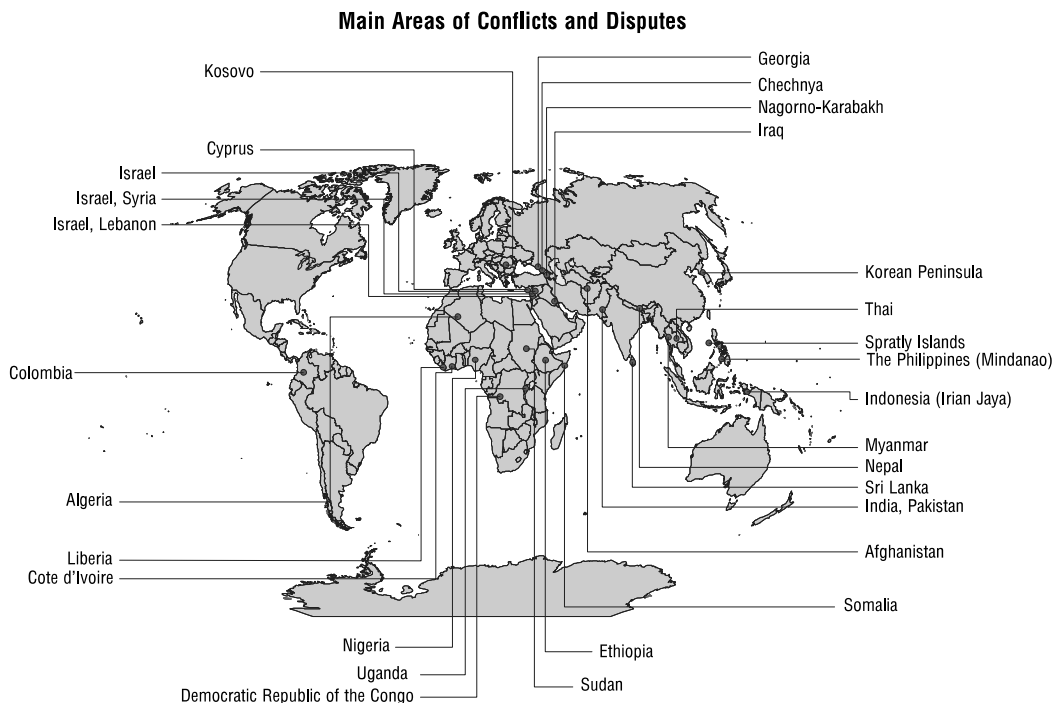
countries have contributed to Iraqi reconstruction through bilateral assistance programs and the dispatch of troops. At the end of June 2006, troops from 28 countries, including about 133,000 personnel from the U.S., are stationed in Iraq to maintain security and assist reconstruction. The U.S. forces are deployed mainly in Baghdad, northern Iraq, and western Iraq, while the Polish-led Multinational Division (Center South) (MND (CS)) is deployed in central south Iraq. The U.K.-led Multinational Division (South East) (MND (SE)) is deployed in southeastern Iraq.

The primary mission of multinational forces has shifted since the beginning of last year from combat operations against insurgents to capability building of Iraqi security forces. During the National Assembly elections and the national referendum held last year, the Iraqi security forces played a significant role in maintaining security, and demonstrated that their ability to preserve public order had apparently improved. Still, it would be some time before Iraqi security forces are able to maintain security and stability on their own. Multinational forces are therefore expected to continue providing training to these security units.

4. Complex and Diverse Regional Conflicts

The characteristics of regional conflicts differ from one conflict to another. They may result from ethnic, religious, territorial or resource-related problems, and may range in form from armed conflict to sustained armed antagonism. Civil wars arising from ethnic, religious, resource and other issues still persist. The resultant human rights violations, refugees, hunger, poverty, and terrorism have spread to other countries, causing international disputes in some cases.

For that reason, international frameworks such as the United Nations (U.N.) and regional organizations have been utilized for a wide spectrum of purposes, from conflict prevention to early settlement and post-



Source: "Military Balance" (2006), etc.

Fig. 1-1-5

conflict reconstruction assistance. Also, regional conflicts are not all the same in nature and in light of the varying stages of conflicts, the standardized involvement of a specific international framework is now regarded as not suitable at any time. It has thus become more important for the international community to determine the characteristics of complex and diverse conflicts and seek out appropriate ways of depending on each their characteristics.

The Middle East, where have been four wars between Israel and Arab states or Palestinians since the foundation of Israel in 1948, Israel signed a peace treaty with Egypt in 1979 and with Jordan in 1994. In 2003, a four-party framework made up of the U.S., the European Union (EU), the United Nations and Russia presented a "Road Map" that laid out a course leading to the establishment of a Middle East peace initiative between the Israelis and the Palestinians on the principle of the peaceful coexistence of two nations, and both two have accepted this approach.

However, earnest discussions between the two parties on sure and steady implementation of the Road Map have not yet to be carried out in a continuous form. With a certain degree of public support, the Israeli government has proceeded to withdraw from settlements "unilaterally" - means that their actions were not the result of talks with the Palestinians - and has drawn out *de facto* borders by building a barrier. At the same time, Hamas, which has achieved governmental authority after winning the Palestinian Legislative Council elections in January of this year, has not denied the intention of armed conflict against Israel, and doubts have taken place over whether the regime has the will and capability to maintain public order. Under this political disorder, on one hand, Palestinian extremists execute suicide bomb attacks, shootings, and the assassinations of Israeli government officials, on the other, Israeli forces operate invasions and bombings of Palestinian territory and the assassination of Palestinian extremist leaders. These have made a vicious circle of violence, and there isn't prospect for achievement of peace.

Israel has not yet signed peace treaties with Syria and Lebanon. Israel and Syria have conflicting stances on water resource issues and there are different stances between Israel and Syria on the returning of the Golan heights where Israel captured during 1967 Arab-Israel War, and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) which observe the implement of ceasefire and disengagement between two nations is deployed. Concerning with Israel and Lebanon, the Israeli military withdrew from southern Lebanon in May 2000, but there are still frequent clashes between the Shiite Muslim organization Hezbollah and Israeli forces.

India and Pakistan, after the World War II, gained their independence from the former British India, but three large-scale armed conflicts have broken out between the two countries over Kashmir and other issues.

On the Korean Peninsula, the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) are confronting each other with tense across the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), with a total of approximately 1.5 million ground forces; this military confrontation has been ongoing since the end of the Korean War (1950-1953).

In Sudan, the Muslim Arab-donated government's 1983 announcement of the application of Islamic law all over the country prompted the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), an anti-government force in the south mainly consisting of Christian African people, to expand its guerilla war with demand on autonomy, distribution of oil, and freedom of religion, resulting in a north-south civil war lasting more than 20 years, killing more than 2 million people and generating millions of refugees. In addition, dissatisfaction toward the central government over socioeconomic and political disparities sparked a conflict in 2003 in Darfur, the western part of Sudan between the government on one side and the African anti-government forces of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) on the other (either of sides is Muslim). The Arab militia known as Janjaweed has continued its attacks against local African residents, generating approximately 2 million internally displaced persons and 200,000

refugees who have fled into neighboring Chad. This is the much-discussed "Darfur issue."

The north-south civil war was brought to a close with a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed between the government and the SPLM/A in January 2005, and the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) is just under operation. About the Darfur conflict, African Union (AU) has dispatched African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), with mediating negotiation for peace between government and rebels. Government and Minawi faction of SLM/A, one of the major rebels, signed Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) in May 2006, and efforts for persuading rebels which didn't accept DPA are going on. Also, according to this agreement, United Nations Security Council adopted resolution, committed acceleration of preparation for transition from AMIS to United Nations operation in Darfur.

[COLUMN]

COMMENTARY

Developments in Military Technologies

Due to a surge in progress in Information Technology (IT) in recent years, developed countries such as the United States continue various studies and implement diversified measures in the field of military technologies based on the understanding that reforms backed by the IT revolution will drastically improve combat strength etc. In its Transformation, the United States gives great importance to Network Centric Warfare (NCW). In NCW, such information as location of enemy forces collected through an intelligence system, e.g., reconnaissance satellites and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), is shared over a network. A command post located in a distant area may thereby command and control rapidly, and direct its forces to targets rapidly, accurately, and flexibly. NCW is geared toward enhancing the awareness of battle space and efficiently operating forces.

The development of IT enabled mass media to broadcast combat situations and damages in real time. As a result, a social trend for asking for minimizing the number of civilian and allied casualties. To respond to this kind of social trend, countries that have high-tech forces, including the United States, attach importance to the improvement of their precision guidance technology to enable precise and effective attacks only against military targets, and R&D on unmanned technology to minimize the number of allied casualties.

Representative precision-guided weapon is Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM). The main characteristic of JDAM is that large quantities of all-weather precision-guided munitions can be



U.S. Air Force B-2 dropping JDAM-guided bombs
[U.S. Air Force]

manufactured at low cost only by attaching a guidance tail kit¹ to unguided free fall bombs. JDAM enabled accurate air-to-ground attacks by fighter aircraft or bombers against targets of high priorities. Guidance is made by the tail control system comprised of steering wings at the tail, driving device and electronic control circuit, and the Inertial Navigational System (INS) supported by the Global Positioning System (GPS). It is reported that if the most accurate mode is used, a majority of bombs are landed in a designated circle with a radius of ten-odd meters.

On the other hand, PAVEWAY Laser Guided Bombs are widely used. Although the accuracy of PAVEWAY Laser Guided Bombs are said to be higher than that of GPS-guided bombs, PAVEWAY Laser Guided Bombs have operational limitations because laser must be continuously applied to a target until a bomb hits the target.

Unmanned technology is represented by Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). In the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) announced by the U.S. Department of Defense in February 2006, priority is placed on the development and deployment of UAVs. In particular, the U.S. Department of Defense reported in the QDR that it would reconfigure the Joint Unmanned Combat Air System (J-UCAS)², and thereby promote the development of long-range carrier UAVs for which aerial refueling is possible and improve their standoff attack capabilities and cruising capabilities. In the QDR, the U.S. Department of Defense also reported that it would double the reconnaissance and supervision capabilities of UAVs by acquiring more number of Predators³ and Global Hawks⁴ now in operation.

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- 1) The guidance tail kit means the whole of attachments equipped with bombs, such as steering wings at the tail, driving device, guidance equipment and mid-body strakes.
 - 2) The U.S. Air Force and Naval Forces have separately promoted their demonstration projects for unmanned attack aircraft. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) has consolidated these two projects and since then promoted the development of J-UCAS with main mission of gaining supremacy over the enemy's air defense network. Demonstration tests have been conducted with two types of aircraft: X-45 developed by Boeing (for U.S. Air Force) and X-47 developed by Northrop Grumman (for U.S. Naval Forces).
 - 3) MQ-9B Predator B has been developed with an emphasis on attack capabilities. Specifications are as follows: maximum operational height is 15.5 km; maximum cruising range is 12,000 km; cruising time is 35 hours; maximum horizontal speed is 444 km/h; internal and external payloads are 363 kg and 1,360 kg, respectively. (Figures are obtained from Jane's Yearbook.)
 - 4) RQ-4B Global Hawk's specifications are as follows: maximum ascending height is 18.3 km; maximum cruising range is 23,000 km; maximum cruising time is 36 hours; maximum cruising speed is 574 km/h; payload is 1,361 kg. (Figures are obtained from Jane's Yearbook.)