

## (2) Initial Measures for Disaster Relief Dispatches and Results

### 1) Initial Measures Taken in Disasters

Based on lessons learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, the ASDF, GSDF and MSDF designated units that take immediate initial action to ensure prompt disaster relief dispatches. As of June 2006, the GSDF designated approximately 2,700 persons, 410 vehicles, and 30 helicopters throughout the country as units that can be immediately dispatched for disaster relief activities. The MSDF designated ships that will be available for emergency operations and established a standby system for emergency operations by aircraft. The ASDF established a standby system for emergency aircraft operations.

The SDF established a system to dispatch aircraft on a discretionary basis in order to gather information and communicate it to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet when its units are informed of the occurrence of an earthquake of level 5-weak on the Japanese seismic scale by the Japan Meteorological Agency. Also, depending on the situation, the SDF will dispatch officers to local governments concerned for information gathering. Life-saving activities can also be conducted, using the equipment of the ASDF, GSDF and MSDF. (See Fig. 3-2-15)

### Overview of use of medical related equipment of the SDF during times of diverse situations including disasters

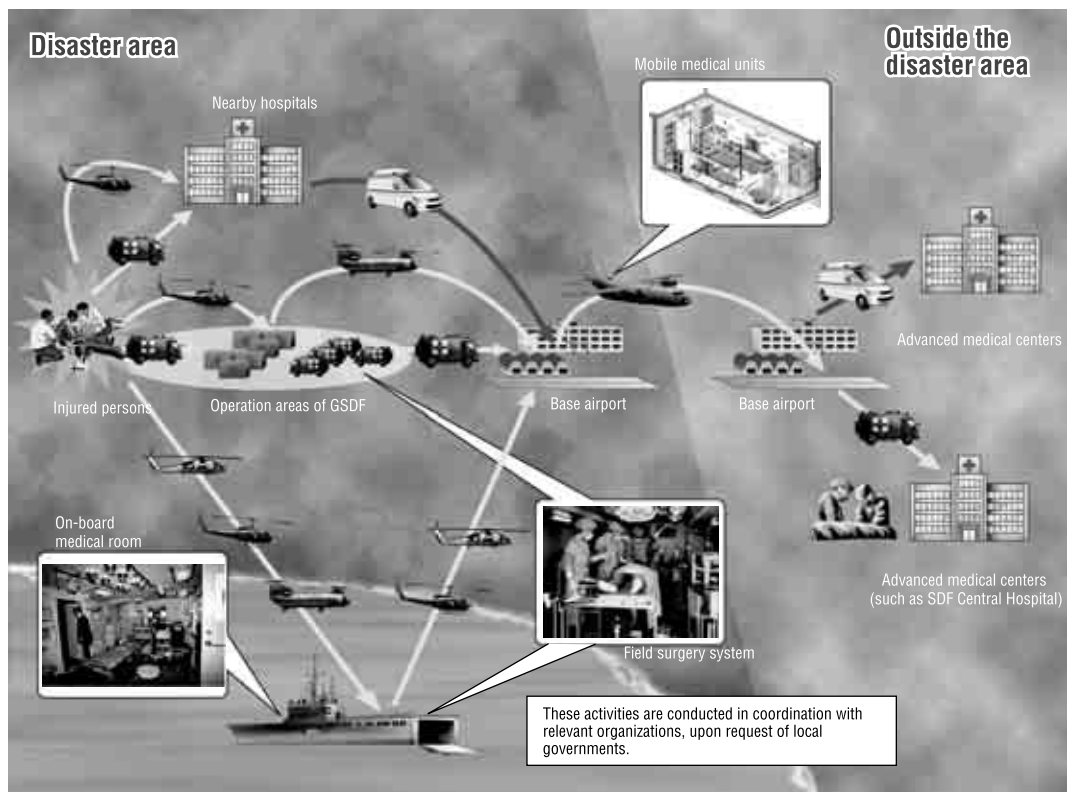


Fig. 3-2-15

## 2) Record of Disaster Relief Dispatches

### a. Transportation of Emergency Patients

The SDF transports emergency patients living on isolated islands with a shortage of medical facilities, using aircraft. In FY 2005, 609 out of a total of 892 disaster relief dispatches was for transporting emergency

patients, the majority of which (582) were dispatches to the Southwest Islands (Okinawa and Kagoshima Prefectures) and the Goto Islands (Nagasaki Prefecture).

The elderly accounted for the largest share of the transported emergency patients. Transportation was also conducted to deal with childbirth and water-related accidents. The SDF also transports emergency patients aboard ships navigating in sea areas far from the mainland, if aircraft of other organizations are not available due to their short flight range.

On April 5, 2006, the 101 air squadron of the GSDF (in Okinawa Prefecture) transported a seriously injured patient from the Kumejima Island to its post in Naha upon request of the governor of Okinawa Prefecture, reaching 7,000 transportation dispatches since the SDF took over the duty of transportation of emergency patients from the USFJ in 1972.

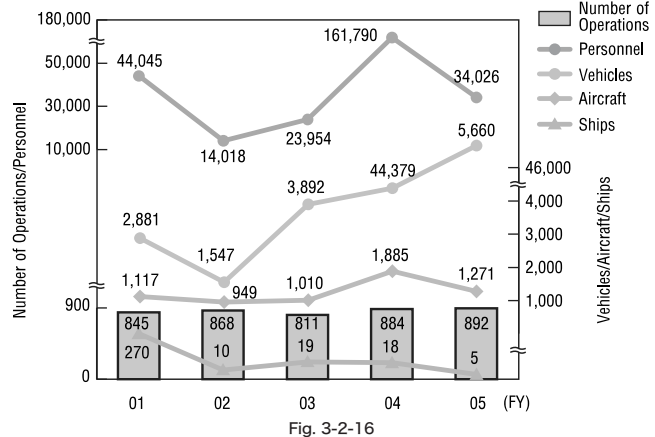
#### b. Support to Firefighting

In FY2005, 147 dispatches were conducted to support firefighting activities, which was the second highest number after dispatches to transport emergency patients.

These dispatches were mostly conducted for proximity firefighting (125 dispatches in 2005). SDF units deployed throughout the country actively get involved in proximity firefighting to contribute to the security of the livelihood of local citizens.

For places where firefighting operations are difficult, such as islands and mountain areas, the SDF conducted aerial firefighting activities upon request of prefectural governors for disaster relief dispatches. (See Figs. 3-2-16, 3-2-17 and 3-2-18)

#### Record of Disaster Relief Operations (Last Five Years)

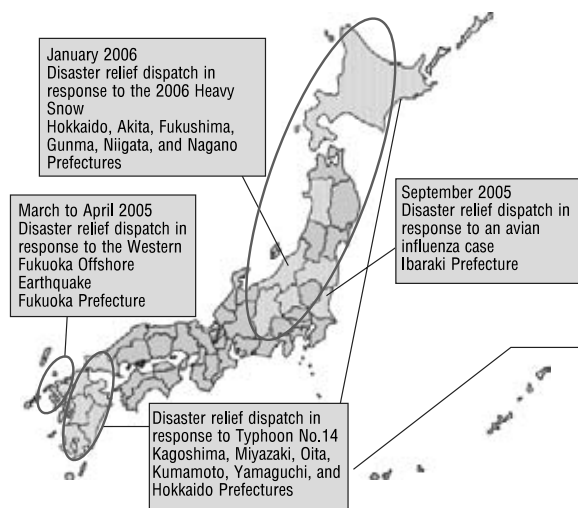


#### Record of Disaster Relief Operations (FY2005)

	Content	Number of Operations	Personnel	Vehicles	Aircraft	Ships
Record of FY2005	Responses to storm, flood, and earthquake disasters	16	11,570	2,587	197	
	Transportation of emergency patient	609	2,777	4	636	
	Search and rescue	55	5,702	694	119	5
	Fire fighting	147	4,906	711	192	
	Other	65	9,071	1,664	127	
	Total	892	34,026	5,660	1,271	5

Fig. 3-2-17

#### Major Areas to Which the SDF Dispatched Its Personnel for Disaster Relief (FY2005)



c. Response to Natural Disasters

Last year Japan suffered from damage from the Western Fukuoka Offshore Earthquake, flood and wind damage from Typhoon 14 in the Kyushu, Shikoku and Chugoku areas, and the third largest number of deaths in the post-war period from snow ("2006 Heavy Snowfall") in the northern and eastern Japan areas facing the Sea of Japan.

The following major dispatches were made in 2005:

(a) Dispatches for the Western Fukuoka Offshore Earthquake

When an earthquake of level 6-strong (on the Japanese scale) with the epicenter off western Fukuoka Prefecture occurred on March 20, 2005, the ASDF, GSDF and MSDF conducted patrols by air, ground and sea, and dispatched personnel. Also, upon request of the governor of Fukuoka Prefecture for disaster relief dispatches, they dispatched a total number of about 4,200 personnel, 540 vehicles and 150 aircraft and 18 vessels to evacuate the residents of the Genkaijima Island, supply water, transport goods, provide medical treatment, and put vinyl sheets over damaged houses on the island.

(b) Dispatches for Typhoon 14

When in early September last year heavy rain from Typhoon 14 broke river banks, flooded homes and caused landslides in the Kyushu, Shikoku and Chugoku areas, the SDF dispatched a total number of about 6,300 personnel, 1,500 vehicles and 25 aircraft to patrol roads, search for missing people, supply water, pile sandbags, and transport goods, upon request of the governors of Kagoshima, Miyazaki, Oita, Kumamoto, Yamaguchi and Hokkaido Prefectures for disaster relief dispatches.

(c) Dispatches for the Bird Flu

When the high-pathogenic bird flu broke out in Ibaraki Prefecture in late June last year, upon request of the governor of Ibaraki Prefecture for disaster relief dispatches, the SDF dispatched a total number of about 2,100 personnel and 260 vehicles, and disposed of about 440,000 birds in cooperation with personnel from the prefecture, municipalities, police, fire department and construction companies in order to prevent the spread of the bird flu virus.



C-1 transportation aircraft transporting emergency patients from Iki Island (ASDF's 3rd transport squadron (Shimane Prefecture))



GSDF's 12th infantry regiment personnel (Kagoshima Prefecture) rescuing disaster victims



Personnel of ASDF's 5th Air Wing (Miyazaki Prefecture) dispatched on disaster-relief activities

**(d) Dispatches for Heavy Snow ("2006 Heavy Snowfall")**

Areas in northern and eastern Japan along the Sea of Japan marked record high snowfalls in December 2005 and the following months, and suffered from significant damage, including deaths totaling 151, the third largest in the post-war period. In Niigata, Nagano, Akita, Gunma, Fukushima and Hokkaido and Fukushima Prefectures, villages were isolated by snow, and there were possibilities that in some areas homes might collapse due to snow load. Under these circumstances, the SDF dispatched a total number of about 4,200 personnel, 990 vehicles and 8 aircraft to clear roads for emergency vehicles and to shed and remove snow from homes and public facilities upon request of the governors of these prefectures.



Aerial view of Akiyama-go village in Nagano Prefecture

**(3) Efforts under Normal Circumstances for Disaster Relief**

**1) Cooperation with Local Governments**

In order to conduct disaster relief activities promptly and appropriately, it is important for the SDF to strengthen cooperation with local governments. For example, the SDF needs to enhance communication systems, coordinate their disaster prevention plans with those of local governments, and actively participate in disaster prevention exercises conducted by local governments.

To this end, in FY 2006, a disaster response function will be added to local liaison offices in prefectures. A "Civil Protection and Disaster Relief Coordinator" post will be established, and the local liaison office's name will be changed to the "SDF Prefectural Cooperation Headquarters." Through these measures, the SDF will develop closer cooperation with municipalities.



A disaster prevention coordinator (retired SDF personnel) in Shizuoka Prefecture and a operation group head of GSDF Eastern Army Headquarters in deliberation in the map exercise for disaster prevention

Also, in view of the importance of cooperation with local governments in human resources, the SDF recommends retired SDF personnel with particular experience in relevant fields, including disaster prevention, to local governments on a request basis in order to provide the knowledge and experience of SDF personnel. As of December 31 2005, the number of retired SDF personnel serving as staff responsible for disaster prevention was 96 in 43 municipalities. Also, current SDF personnel temporarily serve as staff in the disaster prevention department of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. (See Fig. 3-2-19)

It is also important for the SDF to take the following action in cooperation with local governments in order to conduct activities effectively in disasters.

**a. Securing Assembly Areas**

SDF units dispatched for relief operations require assembly areas as bases for their activities, such as parks and play fields near the disaster area.

Also, in the event of a disaster, it is likely that activities using vehicles will be limited, and therefore it is

necessary to set up heliports either within the devastated area or in its vicinity in order to transport emergency patients and materials or to conduct firefighting activities. For the smooth operation of helicopters, it is necessary to clearly separate refuge areas from the heliports, and their locations should be notified to local citizens in advance under normal circumstances.

#### b. Displaying Numbers on Buildings

It is effective to display numbers on the roofs of buildings considered important for disaster prevention, such as prefectural offices and schools, so that airplanes can easily identify buildings from above in gathering information and transporting personnel and materials.

#### c. Securing Facilities for Coordination and Communications

It is also essential for prefectural governments to set up facilities in their offices for coordination and communications with the SDF, including a temporary communications office for coordination and communications, a standby station for liaison officers and parking facilities.

### 2) Development of a Response Manual for Various Disasters

In order to respond more promptly and appropriately to disasters that take place in various forms, it is effective to clarify basic measures and to make all parties con-

#### Retired SDF Personnel Working at Disaster Prevention-Related Departments of Local Governments

Area		Prefectural government	Municipal government
Hokkaido	Hokkaido	Hokkaido Prefectural Government	Obihiro City Government
			Chitose City Government
			Bibai City Government
			Sapporo City Government (two persons)
			Hakodate City Government
			Bihoro Town Government
			Tomakomai City Government
			Hokuto City Government
			Iwamizawa City Government (two persons)
			Asahikawa City Government
Tohoku	Aomori	Aomori Prefectural Government	Hachinohe City Government
			Aomori City Government
	Iwate	Iwate Prefectural Government	Takizawa Village Office
	Miyagi	Miyagi Prefectural Government	Sendai City Government (two persons)
			Ishinomaki City Government
	Akita	Akita Prefectural Government	
Kanto	Yamagata	Yamagata Prefectural Government	Higashine City Government
	Fukushima	Fukushima Prefectural Government	
	Ibaraki	Ibaraki Prefectural Government	
	Gunma	Gunma Prefectural Government	
	Saitama	Saitama Prefectural Government	Soka City Government
	Chiba	Chiba Prefectural Government	
	Tokyo	Tokyo Metropolitan Government (two persons)	Itabashi Ward Office
			Arakawa Ward Office
	Kanagawa	Kanagawa Prefectural Government	
Chubu	Niigata	Niigata Prefectural Government	
	Toyama	Toyama Prefectural Government	Toyama City Government
	Ishikawa	Ishikawa Prefectural Government	Wajima City Government
			Kanazawa City Government
	Fukui		Fukui City Government
	Yamanashi	Yamanashi Prefectural Government	
	Gifu	Gifu Prefectural Government	
	Shizuoka	Shizuoka Prefectural Government (two persons)	
	Aichi	Aichi Prefectural Government	Miyoshi Town Government
Kinki	Mie	Mie Prefectural Government	
	Shiga	Shiga Prefectural Government	Kusatsu City Government
			Takashima City Government
	Kyoto	Kyoto Prefectural Government	Uji City Government
	Osaka	Osaka Prefectural Government	Sakai City Government
			Ikeda City Government
			Osaka City Government
	Hyogo		Akashi City Government
	Wakayama	Wakayama Prefectural Government	Wakayama City Government
	Chugoku	Tottori	Tottori Prefectural Government
Shimane		Shimane Prefectural Government	Matsue City Government
Okayama		Okayama Prefectural Government	Kurashiki City Government
Hiroshima		Hiroshima Prefectural Government	
Yamaguchi		Yamaguchi Prefectural Government	
Shikoku		Tokushima	Tokushima Prefectural Government (two persons)
	Kagawa	Kagawa Prefectural Government	
	Ehime	Ehime Prefectural Government	
	Kochi	Kochi Prefectural Government	
Kyushu	Fukuoka	Fukuoka Prefectural Government	Iizuka City Government
	Saga	Saga Prefectural Government (two persons)	Karatsu City Government
	Nagasaki	Nagasaki Prefectural Government (four persons)	Sasebo City Government
	Kumamoto	Kumamoto Prefectural Government	
	Ohita	Ohita Prefectural Government	Ohita City Government
	Miyazaki	Miyazaki Prefectural Government (two persons)	Myakonojo City Government
			Nobeoka City Government
	Kagoshima	Kagoshima Prefectural Government (two persons)	Satsuma-Sendai City Government
		Kirishima City Government	



cerned aware of them. To this end, based on lessons learned from past disaster relief dispatches and disaster prevention exercises, the Defense Agency and the SDF developed a response manual for various types of disasters in November 2000, which lists issues to be noted for each type of disaster.<sup>38</sup>

In the manual, possible disasters are classified into four types: i) disasters in urban areas, ii) disasters in hilly and mountainous areas, iii) disasters on islands, and iv) special disasters. For each type, the manual defines a response plan, possible damage, essential activities required, and issues to be noted. The manual has already been distributed to related agencies and local governments. The ASDF, GSDF and MSDF are making efforts to improve their disaster relief activities based on the Defense Agency Disaster Prevention Plan and the manual.

### **3) Response to Nuclear Accidents**

Based on lessons learned from the criticality accident that occurred at a uranium-processing plant in Tokaimura, Ibaraki Prefecture in 1999, the Special Law concerning Countermeasures for Nuclear Disasters was enacted in the same year in order to significantly strengthen nuclear emergency response measures. The law provides that the Director of the Nuclear Disaster Countermeasures Headquarters (the Prime Minister) may request the Director-General of the Defense Agency to provide SDF assistance in order to appropriately and promptly take emergency response measures. Based on this provision, the Self-Defense Forces Law was partially amended.<sup>39</sup>

After the nuclear criticality accident in Tokiomura, the GSDF, ASDF and MSDF practiced activities to transport personnel and materials, evacuate residents and monitor airborne and seaborne radiation levels in the comprehensive nuclear disaster prevention exercise, which has been carried out since 2000 under the initiative of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and confirmed the procedures for cooperating with other ministries and local governments in nuclear disasters.

The enhancement of the chemical protection units to allow response to nuclear disasters<sup>40</sup> as well as special disasters is included in the budget for fiscal 2006.

## [COLUMN]

## COMMENTARY

### Voice of GSDF personnel dispatched on disaster-relief mission (snow damage)

The GSDF's 2nd Infantry Regiment, stationed in Joetsu City, Niigata Prefecture, dispatched its personnel on a disaster-relief mission in the wake of a heavy snow in Niigata in response to a request filed by the Niigata Prefectural Government for such a relief operation.

Company Commander, 2nd Infantry Regiment  
GSDF Captain Kazuhiko Yoshida

Snow continued to fall in Yuzawa Town through January, reaching two times the height of an adult on an average, making it difficult for the local municipality to remove snow accumulated at schools as it was tied up in removing snow on national roads. But the snowfall at the town's elementary and junior high schools exceeded the maximum amount against which their buildings could stand, making the removal of snow from their roofs imperative.

Cornice at the school buildings was estimated to weigh several tons, making it extremely dangerous should it fall on people standing below. So, our disaster-relief team gave the highest priority to removing snow at dangerous points on roads used by pupils. In order to remove cornice at the school buildings, we had to lean forward on the cornice, which protruded more than 2 meters from the edge of the rooftop that was more than 15 meters high from the ground. In view of the fact that many people died in Niigata Prefecture after falling down from housetops while removing snow, SDF rangers specially trained for high-altitude missions were mainly assigned to the work of getting rid of cornice with a lifeline tied around their bodies. All our members did their best although they had difficulty smoothly removing the tremendous amount of snow which was also hardened. Despite the heavy snowfall, we were able to fulfill the mission, cheered up by school children who told us, "Do your best, Mr. SDF" while walking on their way to school and their way home everyday.

After completing the end of the mission, we received letters from many people in the affected area, including the head of a group composed of schoolmasters and junior high school principals. The letters were all heart felt, with one of them saying, "Students appear to have learned something - something that cannot be expressed verbally - from having seen SDF members undertaking the mission silently. This could be called 'silent education' - something that students could not get just by sitting in a classroom." We are very pleased that our disaster-relief activities were of some help to people who had been inconvenienced by the heavy snow.



## Voice of MSDF officer dispatched on rescue operation

Petty Officer 1st Class Chiba, who belongs to MSDF Fleet Air Wing 21, was asked about his participation in maritime rescue operations.

Fleet Air Wing 21 101st Air Squadron

Petty Officer 1st Class

Fumihiko Chiba

As crew members of an SH-60J helicopter, we have been trained on a daily basis so that we can respond quickly to all kinds of missions. Rescuing people who have met marine accidents is one of such missions.

When typhoon No. 7 was approaching the Kanto region on July 26, 2005, a yacht became unable to navigate in waters off east of Hachijojima Island. Acting on a request for a disaster-relief operation filed by the Japan Coast Guard which had received a distress signal from the yacht, I boarded an SH-60J helicopter, leaving Tateyama Base on a rescue mission.



After taking off the base, we obtained information from our headquarters via wireless radio saying two crew members of the yacht were adrift in waters 220 kilometers south-southeast of Tateyama after abandoning the vessel that had started to submerge and that a Japan Coast Guard jet was searching for it. As we approached the accident site, we found the wind blowing at a speed of 20 meters per second while the waves were more than 5 meters high. In light of remaining fuel of the helicopter and our distance from Tateyama Base, we had only about 40 minutes left to search for the yacht, making search and rescue operations under tough conditions likely.

Immediately after the start of our search, the Japan Coast Guard jet spotted the yacht drifting on the sea and a 1.5-meter-long life raft that was carrying the two persons. Our helicopter started to hover to prepare for rescue operations but the raft was being tossed about by high waves. Affected by strong wind and waves, the helicopter also fluctuated up and down significantly. But we were determined to rescue the two persons at any cost when we confirmed that the uneasy-looking two were on the raft. Under these tougher weather conditions, all of our crew members, united in rescuing the two, were able to do so and fulfill the mission.

When the two persons, after being rescued, came to us and held our hands while they were in tears, I was filled with warmth and felt a sense of achievement. Reminding myself of this feeling, I will continue training and do all I can do so that I can cope with any mission expeditiously.



## 6. Response to Other Events

### (1) Improvement in Guard Postures for SDF Facilities

The police shall primarily deal with terrorism incidents. However, the Self-Defense Forces Law was amended to allow SDF units to be called upon to guard SDF and USFJ facilities and sites, and to use weapons as necessary in regular guarding mission for SDF facilities, in order to improve preparedness for large-scale terrorist attacks like those on the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001.

#### 1) Guarding Operations for SDF and USFJ Facilities

When there is a possibility of large-scale terrorist attacks on SDF or USFJ facilities and sites within Japan and there is a recognized necessity to prevent damage to these facilities, the Prime Minister may order SDF units to conduct operations to guard the SDF or USFJ facilities and sites. Part of the authorities given to police officials under the Law concerning the Execution of Duties of Police Officials may be given to the SDF personnel ordered to carry out guarding operations.<sup>41</sup> Also, the amended Self-Defense Forces Law provides that SDF personnel may be given the authority to use weapons beyond the limitations of Article 7 of the Law concerning the Execution of Duties of Police Officials. (See Fig. 3-2-20)

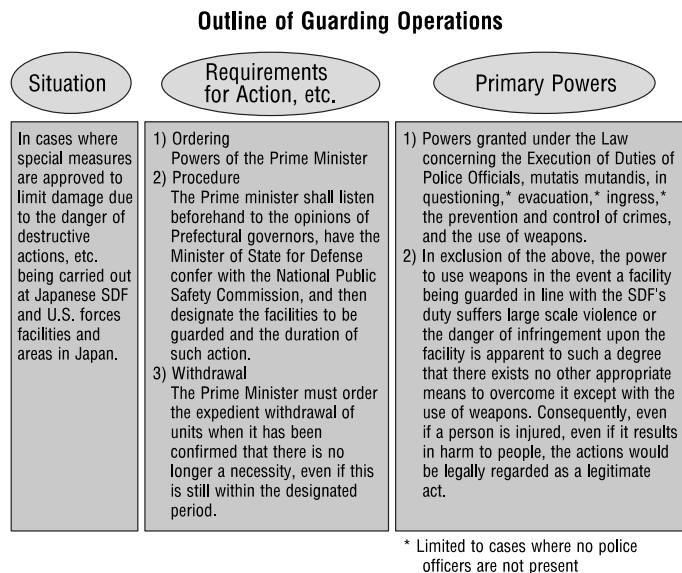


Fig. 3-2-20

The Defense Agency and the SDF exchange opinions about guarding operations with the police and the Japan Coast Guard in order to ensure the effectiveness of guarding operations, which are a new duty for the SDF. In addition, exercises for guarding operations have been conducted at USFJ facilities and sites throughout Japan since 2003.

#### 2) Use of Weapons to Guard SFG Facilities under Normal Circumstances

The amended Self-Defense Forces Law gives SDF personnel the authority to use weapons as necessary in order to guard SDF facilities within Japan that have installations for storing, accommodating or maintaining weapons, ammunition, explosives, vessels, aircraft, vehicles, wired electronic communication equipment, radio equipment or liquid fuel for the SDF, and those that have accommodations and installations related to ports and harbors or airports.<sup>42</sup>

### (2) Improvement in Preparedness to Transport Expatriate Japanese Nationals

#### 1) Amendment of the Self-Defense Forces Law

When disasters, riots or other emergencies occurred overseas, the Defense Agency and the SDF transported, with the government's aircraft or the ASDF's transport aircraft, expatriate Japanese nationals who needed protection for their lives and bodies upon request of the Minister of Foreign Affairs under Article

100-8 of the Self-Defense Forces Law, as amended in 1994.

In the 1999 amendment of the Self-Defense Forces Law, SDF ships and shipborne helicopters were added as a means to transport expatriate Japanese national. Also, the amendment gives SDF personnel the authority to use weapons necessary to protect SDF personnel and Japanese nationals. Thus, the preparedness to transport expatriate Japanese nationals has been enhanced.



Exercise for transporting expatriate Japanese nationals

## 2) Preparedness of the ASDF, GSDF and MSDF

In order to receive expatriate Japanese nationals from overseas legations and safely transport them to local airports and harbors, the GSDF designated dispatch personnel for helicopter units and guidance units<sup>43</sup>, while the MSDF designated transport ships and air units, and the ASDF designated dispatch personnel. Thus, the SDF is prepared for overseas rescue missions.

Missions to transport expatriate Japanese nationals are carried out in close cooperation among the ASDF, GSDF and MSDF, and therefore integrated coordination is required. To meet this requirement, they have improved the capability to fulfill such missions through integrated exercises using transport aircraft and ships. (See Fig. 3-2-21)

### Example of Transportation of Japanese Nationals Overseas

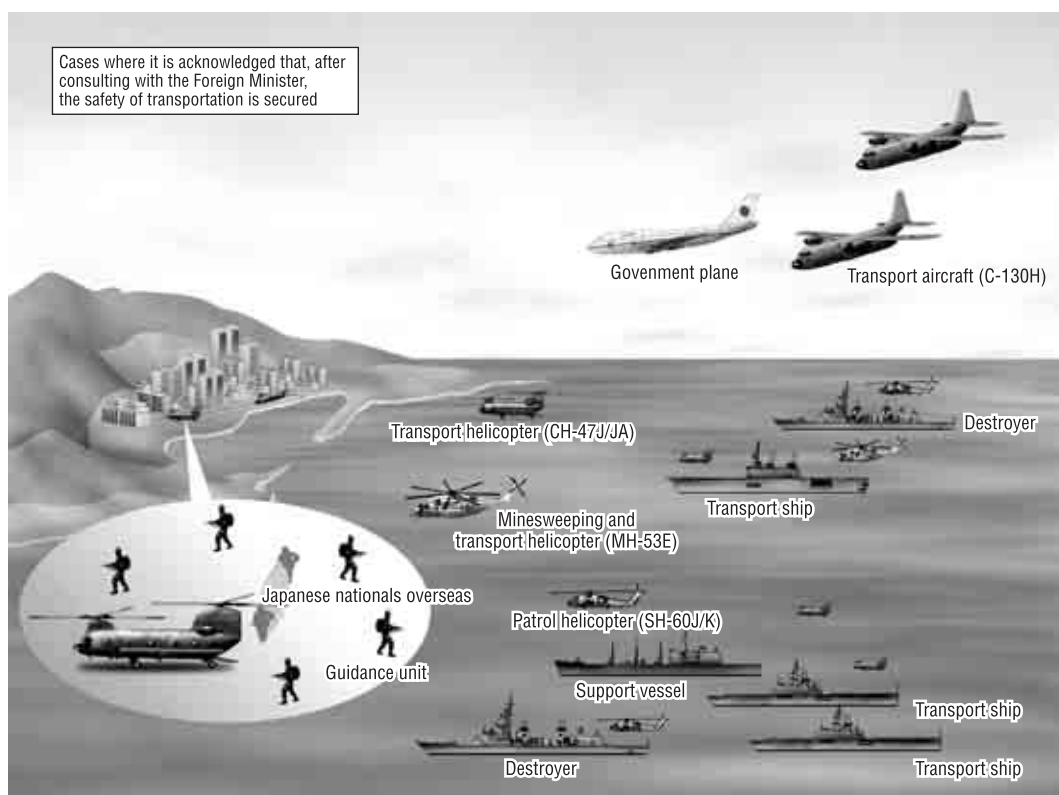


Fig. 3-2-21

### **3) Actual Transport of Expatriate Japanese Nationals**

On April 15, 2004, ten Japanese journalists staying in Samawah, Iraq to report the activities of the GSDF dispatched under the Special Measures Law for Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq were transported from Talil Airport in Iraq to Mubarak Airport in Kuwait by a C-130H transportation aircraft. This was the first transportation of Japanese nationals under Article 100-8 of the Self-Defense Forces Law.

### **(3) Response to Situations in Areas Surrounding Japan**

The National Defense Program Guideline provides that the Japan-US Security Agreement shall be strengthened by actively promoting measures such as a wide range of operational cooperation, including cooperation in the event of situations in areas surrounding Japan.

Specifically, the government will take action under the Law concerning Measures to Ensure the Peace and Security of Japan in Situations in Areas Surrounding Japan of 1999<sup>44</sup> and the Ship Inspection Operations Law of 2000.<sup>45</sup>

### **(4) Collection of Military Information**

In order to operate defense forces effectively in various situations including new threats and diverse contingencies, it is essential to gather, analyze and share information promptly and appropriately as well as to detect any indication of contingencies at the earliest possible time.

Therefore, the Defense Agency and the SDF analyze and assess a variety of information comprehensively, and have diversified the means of collecting information. Information collection activities include: i) collection, processing and analysis of radio wave concerning military communications and radio waves emitted from electronic weapons reaching Japan from abroad; ii) collection and analysis of high-resolution commercial satellite imagery data; iii) warning and surveillance by ships and aircraft; iv) collection and organization of a variety of published information; v) information exchange with defense authorities of other nations; and vi) intelligence activity<sup>46</sup> by defense attache.<sup>47</sup>

In order to enhance the capabilities to collect a variety of information and to comprehensively analyze and assess information, taking into consideration the security environment and technical trends, the Defense Agency and the SDF will improve equipment and devices for collecting information, and also will enhance the intelligence system, including the Defense Intelligence Headquarters, that support such capabilities.

## Job of defense officer stationed in Israel

ASDF Colonel Eiichiro FUKAZAWA, who has been dispatched to the Japanese Embassy in Israel as a defense attache since 2004, was asked about his impression of Israel and his job in the country.

Israel is a small country with the size of its land being as large as Japan's Shikoku and the population being short of that of Saitama Prefecture. A clear blue sky often seen in the country is impressive while its land, being rich in beautiful historic remains as seen in Jerusalem, is very wonderful. Once you step out into towns, you can see the livelihood of people who love family and peace. Very famous is the wine produced in the Golan Heights where the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) has been undertaking U.N. peacekeeping operations. Wine made in the region is said to be sold widely in Japan.

Partly due to its geographical location being far from Japan, Israel is often misunderstood by the Japanese people in many ways. For example, weekend in Israel is Fridays and Saturdays. Particularly, Saturdays are more than just days for resting and are religious Sabbath days when labor is prohibited. If Israeli people are forced to work on Fridays or Saturdays, this may result in emotional frictions. Religion and livelihood are deeply connected in Israel. This is only one of many differences between Japan and Israel. Watching the conflict involving Israel, I really feel that both sides of the conflicting parties have their own justice and the route of the conflict is very deep and complex.

In Israel, I am collecting and analyzing information on Japan's security by using my military expertise and experience, which I have accumulated as a defense officer, taking into consideration differences between Japan and Israel in their political situations and policies.

Because Israel is surrounded by countries with different principles, national security is the most important issue. That is the reason why Israel has continued to adopt conscription and most of the people have had the experience of military service. As a country which has the experience of being damaged by Scud missiles fired by Iraq during the Persian Gulf War, Israel began to study how to deal with ballistic missile at an early date. Such efforts include the joint development of "an Arrow missile" with the United States and the creation of a civilian defense force, mainly consisting of troops in the reserves, in order to deal with large-scale military damage. The country has also taken measures to respond to emergencies, such as requiring all buildings, including houses for individuals, to set up shelters. In addition, Israel has had keen interest in ways to ensure stability in border areas. Local media is frequently taking up international organizations deployed on such areas. Among such organizations is the UNDOF deployed in



Colonel Fukazawa inspecting Gaza Strip (far right)



Wailing Wall and Dome of the Rock (both in Jerusalem)

the Golan Heights, which has been highly appreciated in this country.

Japanese defense officers' participation in UNDOF operations marked the 10th anniversary in February this year, with about 900 people having experienced the job here. The face of such officers, engaging in the mission in the Golan Heights, is, without exception, full of confidence. What is impressive for me is that the look of these officers has become that of a respectable member who belongs to an international peacekeeping force. Israeli people have expressed gratitude for Japanese defense officers' contribution to the peace of the Middle East, which I am greatly proud of as one of such officers.