

Section 3. Preparation against Full-scale Aggression

Under the National Defense Program Guidelines, since the possibility in the foreseeable future of the occurrence of full-scale aggression to Japan is deemed to be decreasing, so-cold cold-war type defense build-up concept shall be changed so that equipment and persons prepared for full-scale aggression will be reduced, while the most basic part shall be secured taking into consideration that the original role of the defense force is against full-scale aggression and such force cannot be built up in a short period of time. Even today, there remain unclear and uncertain factors in areas surrounding Japan, and given the devastating loss of people's lives and property that armed aggression would cause, readiness for full-scale aggression is essential.

If full-scale aggression to Japan took place, the GSDF, ASDF and MSDF will respond promptly and effectively by acting in an organized and integrated manner in a joint operations posture. Operations to be employed for full-scale aggression are classified into the following by the function: operations for air defense, operations for guarding the waters surrounding Japan, operations for guarding the territory of Japan, and operations for securing safety of maritime transportation. In conducting such operations, the U.S. forces will, in accordance with the Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation, support the operations employed by the SDF and conduct operations to complement the capability of the SDF, which may include operations with striking power.

This section will explain the outline of typical operations that may be conducted by the SDF when full-scale aggression takes place.

1. Operations for Air Defense

In the event of an armed attack on Japan, judging from Japan's geographical characteristics of being surrounded by sea and the trends of modern warfare,⁴⁸ where air superiority needs to be gained prior to or together with ground and maritime operations, it is considered that attacks would begin with a surprise air attack using aircraft or missiles and that such an air attack would be repeated.

Operations for air defense are defined in view of the fact that the invading party is advantaged in choosing the time, location, and method for invasion and that the initial response will therefore has a significant influence over all subsequent operations. It is therefore necessary under normal circumstances to maintain a posture to prompt response against any invasion, to collect relevant information on a continuous basis, and to exercise combat power promptly and comprehensively in conducting actual operations.

Operations for air defense can be divided into overall operations to be undertaken primarily by the Air Self-Defense Forces (ASDF), and local air defense operations to be undertaken by the GSDF, MSDF, and ASDF, in defending their respective bases and units.

In overall air defense, efforts will be made to cope promptly with the aerial intrusion by enemy aircraft in order to intercept them in airspace as distant from Japanese territory as possible to keep them from gaining air superiority,⁴⁹ in order to prevent damage to Japanese nationals and the national land, and to inflict heavy damage on the enemy, thus impeding the enemy's efforts to continue aerial assaults. (See Fig. 3-3-1)



Example of an Air Defense Strategy

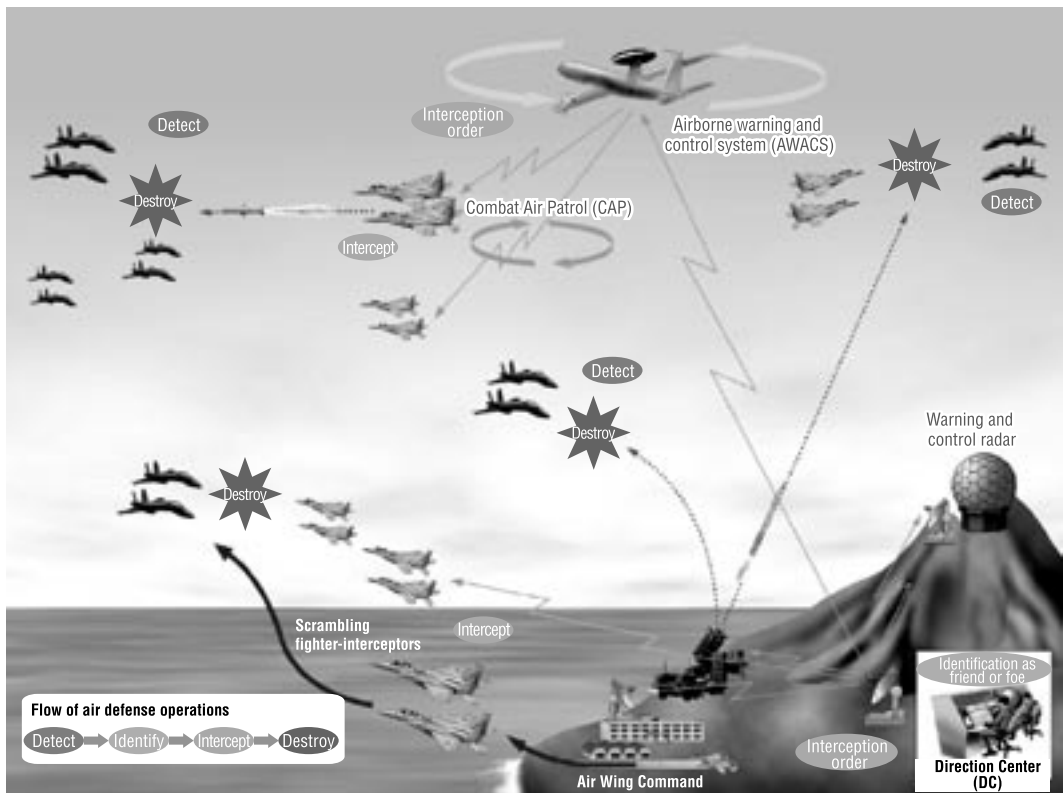


Fig. 3-3-1

1) Detection of Intruding Enemy Aircraft

The ASDF, using the radars of the air warning and control units as well as early warning and control aircraft, maintains surveillance over the entire airspace of areas surrounding Japan and detects intruding enemy aircraft as quickly as possible.

2) Identification of Detected Aircraft

The ASDF identifies whether the detected aircraft is a friend or enemy by using the Base Air Defense Ground Environment (BADGE) System.⁵⁰

3) Interception and Destruction of the Enemy's Aircraft

In the event that the detected aircraft are deemed to be enemies, the ASDF assign targets to fighters standing by on the ground or in the air, or surface-to-air guided missile units of the GSDF and ASDF through the air warning and control unit. The fighters and surface-to-air guided missiles are then controlled and guided to destroy the enemy aircraft.

2. Operations for the Defense of Surrounding Sea Areas

In the event of an armed attack on Japan, which is an island nation, attacks would probably be made by ships, as well as by aircraft.

Operations for defending the sea areas surrounding Japan would be conducted mainly by the Maritime Self-Defense Forces (MSDF) in cooperation with the GSDF and the ASDF, for which the MSDF will combine

various strategies, including anti-surface ship, anti-submarine, and (local) air defense warfare. The cumulative effect of these strategies will make it possible to successfully defend the surrounding sea areas, by obstructing the advance of enemy forces and reducing their military strength. (See Fig. 3-3-2)



1) Defense on the Sea

In the surrounding sea areas, the MSDF will patrol¹⁵¹ vast sea areas using P-3C patrol aircraft and patrol shipping lanes using destroyers. In the event that a surface ship or submarine is found to be attacking Japanese ships or others, the MSDF will attack the enemy using its destroyers, submarines and patrol aircraft (in anti-surface ship and anti-submarine warfare). Depending upon situation, the MSDF will receive support from fighters.

2) Defense in Coastal Areas

The MSDF, using its destroyers, patrol aircraft, and minesweeping ships, will patrol the main ports and harbors for the early detection of enemy attacks and for securing the safety of ships and coastal areas.

In the event of attack by enemy surface ships and submarines, the MSDF will destroy these ships and submarines using destroyers, submarines, and patrol aircraft (in anti-surface ship and anti-submarine

Strategy for defense in sea areas surrounding Japan

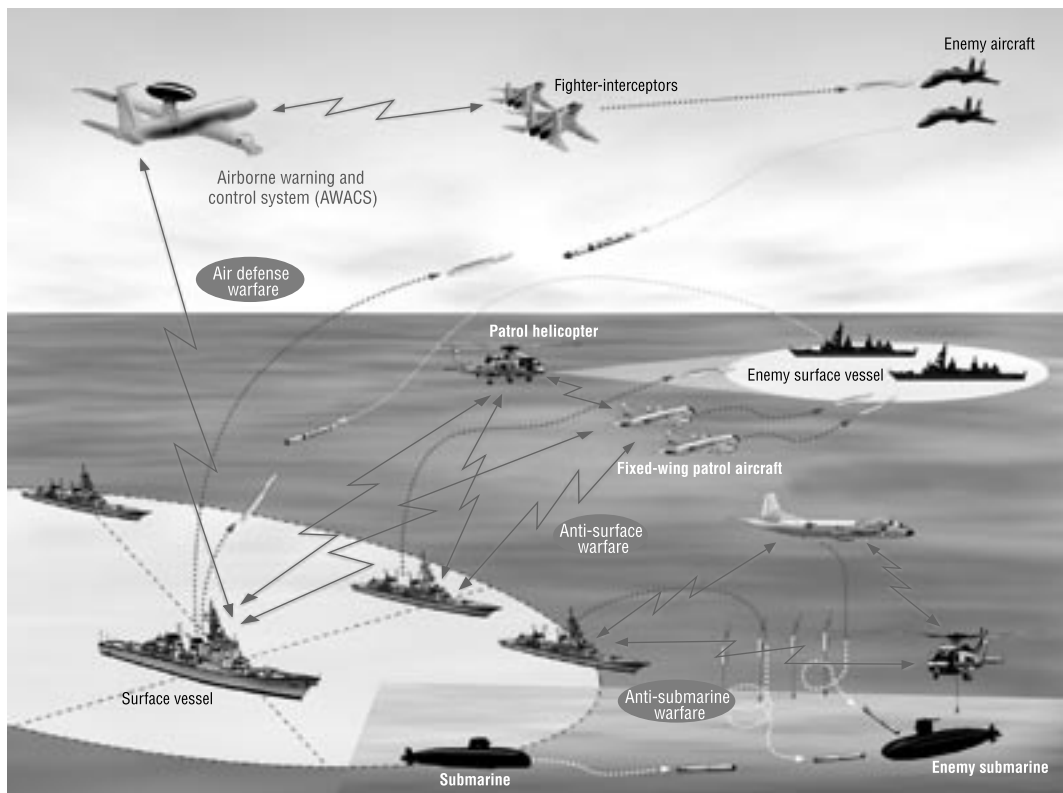


Fig. 3-3-2

operations), receiving support from the ASDF's fighters and the GSDF's surface-to-ship guided missile unit, depending on the situation. In the event that the enemy places mines, the MSDF will remove these by using its minesweeping ships (in minesweeping warfare).

3) Defense in Main Straits

Depending upon the situation, minesweeping mother ships, submarines, and aircraft of the MSDF and ASDF will be used to lay mines in main straits (in mine-laying operations). The MSDF will destroy enemy surface ships and submarines if they attempt to pass the straits, using its destroyers, submarines, and patrol aircraft (in anti-surface ship and anti-submarine warfare).

4) Air Defense in the Surrounding Waters

In waters surrounding Japan, the MSDF will use destroyers for air defense, receiving support from fighters of the ASDF, as necessary.

3. Operations to Defend Japan's Territory (to Counter Landing of Invading Forces)

Because Japan is an island country, if a country attempts invade Japan's territory, that country must acquire air and sea supremacy on invading fronts and then land its troops on Japan's territory by ship or aircraft.

Invading ground troops are unable to exert full fighting capability during sea or air maneuvers and are vulnerable and incapable of exerting full organized fighting capability immediately before or after landing. Accordingly, operations to counter landing of invasion forces must take advantage of these operationally weak points by mounting forward counter-offensives to destroy the enemy troops at an early stage, as much as possible on beachheads and at landing sites. (See Fig. 3-3-3)



1) Counter Attacks at Sea

Each service of the SDF will destroy as many enemy ships transporting ground troops as possible at sea, using destroyers, submarines, patrol aircraft, fighters, and surface-to-ship guided missiles, thereby forcing the enemy to abandon its intention of landing or reducing its strength.

Also, the fighters and surface-to-air guided missiles of the Air Self-Defense Forces and Ground Self-Defense Forces will destroy as many enemy aircraft transporting ground troops as possible in the air.

2) Counter Attacks in Coastal Areas

The MSDF, using minesweeping mother ships, will lay sea mines and the GSDF, using mine-laying equipment, will lay coastal mines to obstruct and counter the landing of invading forces.

Against ground troops that attempt make landing, the GSDF will take the lead by using the tanks, antitank and special artillery of the units⁵² deployed on and around beaches to counter the landing of enemy ground troops in coastal areas. If enemy troops have already started landing, the GSDF will hinder and destroy the invading troops using mobile strike power mainly supplied by special artillery, anti-tank guided missiles and tanks. During this period, the ASDF will support the GSDF using fighters.

The airborne assault⁵³ and helicopter-borne assault⁵⁴ made by the enemy in combination with the landing by ground troops will be repelled at an early stage, mainly by the firepower of special artillery and the

mobile strike power.

The GSDF units will use anti-air firepower for (local) air defenses by the use of surface-to-air weapons such as surface-to-air guided missiles.

Example of Operations for Coping with the Landing of Invading Forces

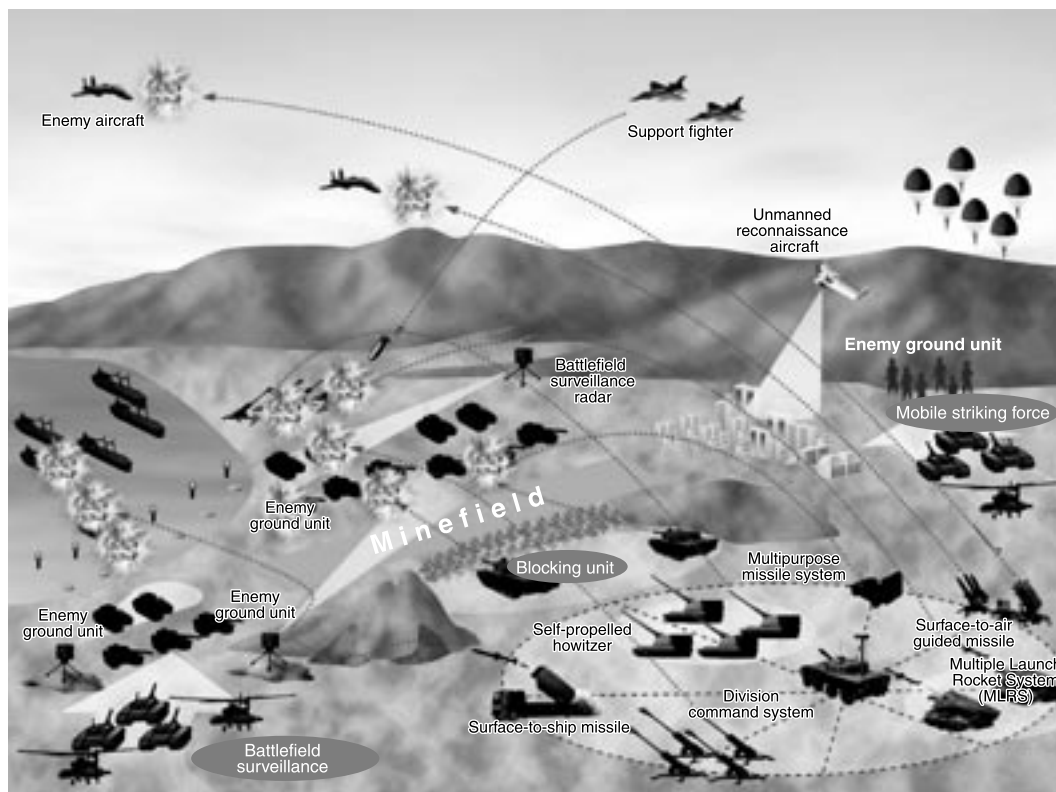


Fig. 3-3-3

3) Counter Attacks Inland

In the event of failure to destroy enemy troops before or immediately after their landing by air or by sea, the GSDF will conduct holding operations against the enemy inland, using the units deployed in advance and receiving support from fighters. In the meantime, as many units as possible will be gathered from other areas to launch counter attacks to eliminate the invading ground troops.

4) Counter Attacks through Each Stage of Operations

Through each stage of these operations, the MSDF, using destroyers, submarines, and patrol aircraft, the ASDF, using fighters, will make efforts to blockade the enemy's transport of ships, thereby preventing the enemy from increasing its ground troops, and blockade the enemy's maritime logistical support lines.

In addition, to support these operations, the GSDF, MSDF, and ASDF will conduct the necessary air defense and intelligence, and also the transportation of units and supplies.

4. Operations for Ensuring the Safety of Maritime Traffic

Maritime traffic is indispensable for Japan, and operations for ensuring the safety of maritime traffic is important not only for sustaining the country's fighting capability and for enabling U.S. forces to come to

support the SDF, but also for ensuring Japan's foundation for survival.

The MSDF will conduct a combination of various operations, including anti-surface ship, anti-submarine, (local) air defense and minesweeping warfare in waters of several hundred miles surrounding Japan (or in waters of approximately 1,000 miles in case a sea lane⁵⁵ is established) and will patrol the areas, escort ships, and defend Japan's ports, harbors and straits..

In waters surrounding the country, operations similar to those for the defense of the surrounding waters will be conducted for ensuring the safety of maritime traffic.

In the case a sea lane is established, operations will be conducted to patrol the lane on a continuous basis, detect and take counter measures against hindrance by the enemy's ships and submarines at an early stage, and escort Japan's ships as necessary.

To ensure the safety of Japan's ships, destroyers will be used, supported as necessary by air defense within the possible range by fighters.