

Chapter 5

Improvement of International Security Environment

Overview

Section 1. Efforts for International Peace Cooperation

Section 2. Promotion of Security Dialogue and Defense Exchanges

Section 3. Efforts for Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation



Members of the 8th SDF contingent for Iraqi humanitarian and reconstruction support activities undertook aid activities in Samawah



A GSDF helicopter being loaded into an ASDF C-130H transport plane (major earthquake in Pakistan)



A Japanese MSDF vessel engaging in refueling activity



Senior Vice Minister for Defense Kimura receiving a flag at a ceremony to return the flag following the completion of a mission by the 9th SDF contingent for Iraqi humanitarian and reconstruction support activities (Nerima Garrison)

Section 1. Efforts for International Peace Cooperation

The present international community faces a range of global-scale problems, from international terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, a complex diversity of local conflicts to international crimes. Globalization of the present world due to rapid advancement of transportation and communications means has raised concerns that the occurrence of events even in regions far from Japan will pose a threat to our country or have an impact on the country.

In light of the difficulty for a single country to respond to and solve these global threats and the need to take an approach to addressing these threats not only on the military front but also on various other fronts, it is widely recognized that the international community should join hands in coping with these threats.

Along with national defense, Japan's defense and security goals set under the National Defense Program Guidelines (NDPG)¹ are to improve the international security environment, based on the efforts made by the international society, so as to reduce the chances that any threats will reach Japan. The NDPG also calls for Japan to actively promote diplomatic activities including the use of Official Development Assistance (ODA), and, together with such diplomatic activities, promote activities that nations of the world cooperatively undertake to enhance the international security environment (hereinafter referred to as "international peace cooperation activities") in an integrated manner so that Japan can deal with these issues proactively and on its own initiative. (see Chapter 2, Section2, 2)

This chapter will explain in details Japan's international peace cooperation activities and the direction of efforts being undertaken by the Defense Agency and the SDF on such activities on the basis of the NDPG.

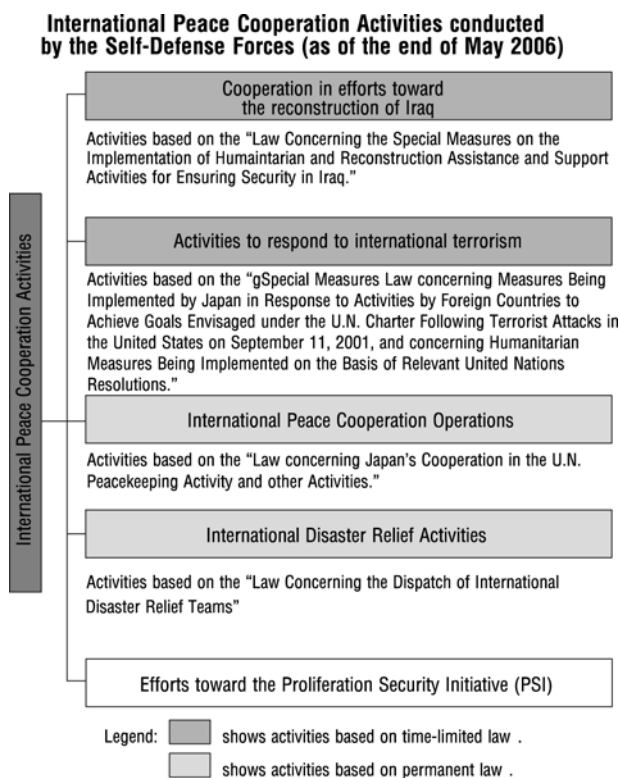


Fig. 5-1-1

1. Efforts to Improve International Security Environment Proactively and on Its Own Initiative

The basic policy for Japan's security set under the NDPG to ensure the country's peace and security has specified two goals and calls for Japan to take a three-way approach to achieve them.

These goals are to eliminate chances that threats will affect Japan by improving the international security environment, in addition to making efforts to prevent Japan from being exposed to threats and to eliminate such possibilities. These goals were set on the basis of the recognition that was shared following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States that the occurrence of events even in regions far from Japan is capable of posing a threat to Japan and affecting the country. The NDPG listed Japan's cooperation with the international community as one of the three approaches to achieve the goals, and calls

for Japan to make independent and proactive efforts to engage in diplomacy and international peace cooperation activities in an integrated manner.

In order for the SDF to appropriately engage in international peace cooperation activities, the Defense Agency and the SDF are appropriately redefining such activities in light of its overall duties, and have been reviewing systems in relevant fields in line with its pledge to improve the systems.

(1) Reviewing SDF's Peace Cooperation Activities

Since the SDF dispatched a minesweeping unit of the Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) to the Persian Gulf, it has participated in various international peace cooperation activities and international disaster relief activities, contributing much to the global community. Since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, the SDF has been maintaining cooperation and support activities in the Indian Ocean and other places based on the Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law².

After the use of force by the United States and the United Kingdom against Iraq, the SDF, based on the

Comprehensive Comparison of Laws Concerning International Peace Cooperation Activities

Item	International Peace Cooperation Law	Anti-terrorism Special Measures Law	Special Measures Law for Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq
Purpose	○ Active contribution to United Nations-centered efforts toward international peace	○ Active and proactive contribution to the efforts by the international society toward prevention and eradication of international terrorism ○ Contribution to ensuring peace and security of the international society including Japan	○ Active and proactive contribution to the efforts by the international society to support and encourage the independent efforts by the Iraqi people toward the prompt reconstruction of the State of Iraq ○ Contribution to ensuring peace and security of the international society including Japan through reconstruction of Iraq.
Provisions in SDF Law	○ Article 100-7 (Chapter 8 Miscellaneous Rules) of the SDF Law	○ Supplementary provisions of the SDF Law	○ Supplementary provisions of the SDF Law
Major activities	○ U.N. peacekeeping activities ○ Humanitarian international relief activities ○ International election monitoring activities ○ Supplies cooperation for the above-mentioned activities	○ Cooperation and support activities ○ Search and rescue activities ○ Disaster relief for affected people activities	○ Humanitarian and reconstruction assistance activities ○ Support activities for ensuring security
Activity area	○ Areas excluding Japan (including high seas) (A cease-fire agreement between the parties of the dispute and an agreement of the receiving country are required.)	○ Territories of Japan ○ High seas and international airspace ^{*1} ○ Territories of foreign countries (Approval from the relevant country is required.) ^{*1}	○ Territories of Japan ○ Territories of foreign countries (An agreement of the relevant country and in the case of Iraq an agreement of the agency in charge of administration) ^{*1} ○ High seas and international airspace ^{*1}
Diet approval	○ To be discussed, as a general rule, in the Diet in advance about the implementation by the SDF of the peacekeeping operations of the peacekeeping force ^{*2}	○ Response measures by the SDF to be discussed in the Diet within twenty (20) days from the day that the measures started ^{*2}	○ Response measures by the SDF to be discussed in the Diet within twenty (20) days from the day that the measures started ^{*2}
Diet report	○ To report without delay about the details of the implementation plan, etc.	○ To report without delay about the details of the basic plan, etc.	

Notes: 1. Only regions where it is admitted that there is no battle currently going on and there will be no battle throughout the duration of the activities to be implemented there.

2. In cases such as when the Diet is closed, an approval shall be asked for promptly in the Diet first summoned thereafter.

Fig. 5-1-2

Law Concerning Special Measures on Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq³, has been on a reconstruction mission in Iraq in collaboration with the international society in order to transform the Middle Eastern country into a peaceful and democratic country. Japan's efforts to support such international peace cooperation activities have been highly appreciated not only by the global community but also domestically as many of the Japanese people perceive these activities positively. (see Chapter 2, Section 4)

SDF members who have been undertaking such activities have devoted themselves to executing their missions despite extremely difficult work conditions and a tense atmosphere while being away⁴ from their home country and living separately from their family members for a long time.

In order for SDF members to focus on executing these missions while maintaining pride and self-consciousness, it is necessary to establish necessary systems and environments, and upgrade international peace cooperation activities to a primary mission of the SDF from a secondary mission. The SDF's playing such a role would enable Japan to send a strong message to the global community that it is proactively striving to ensure peace and stability in the international society in cooperation with the rest of the world.

To this end, the Government submitted a bill to the Diet on June 9 to partially revise the Defense Agency Establishment Law, including raising international peace cooperation activities to a primary mission of the SDF. (see Chapter 2, Section 4)

(2) Establishing System to Adequately Undertake International Peace Cooperation Activities

Under the NDPG, the SDF, in order to adequately undertake international peace cooperation activities, is to improve its educational and training systems, unit stand-by systems, and its transportation capacity. By doing so, the SDF is to establish the foundation in which units can be dispatched expeditiously and continuous SDF operations become possible, and is also to improve its overall operational systems, including reviewing the definition of international peace cooperation activities in light of the SDF's duties.

Specifically, the SDF will train officers who are to become key members in future missions by providing necessary education, for the SDF's adequate undertaking of international peace cooperation activities while utilizing the self-contained nature of the SDF and its organizational power. The Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) plans to set up an international activity educational unit under its Central Readiness Group in order to support training for international peace cooperation activities and study relevant issues.

In addition, the SDF will significantly expand the scale of units which are to stand by on a rotational basis, and will continue to improve defense equipment and outfits which are expected to contribute to Japan's international peace cooperation activities and aircraft and vessels which have large transportation capacity. These efforts are designed for the SDF to build a system in which Japan's international peace cooperation activities can be implemented more effectively.

The SDF's joint operation system started at the end of March this year, which enables the Chief of Staff, Joint Staff Office to assist the Minister of State for Defense on military and other professional

Active Promotion of International Peace Coup Operation Activities

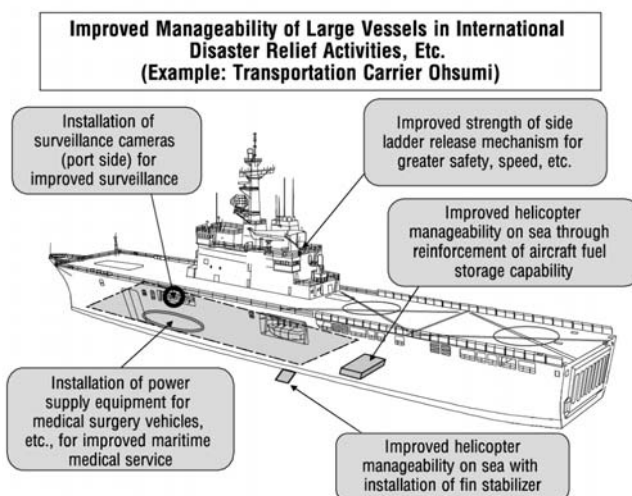


Fig. 5-1-3

fronts in a unified manner. As a result, Japan has become able to undertake its international peace cooperation activities more efficiently and effectively.

2. Cooperation in Global Efforts to Reconstruct Iraq

Major combat operations have ended in Iraq, and the international community is redoubling its efforts to help rebuild the country, following the adoption of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1483⁵ in May 2003 and subsequent resolutions. The reconstruction of Iraq is extremely important for ensuring peace and security in the global community including Japan, as well as for attaining peace and stability for the Iraqi people and the Middle East.



Parliamentary Secretary for Defense Aichi (left) presents a flag to the chief (right) of the 10th SDF contingent for Iraqi humanitarian and reconstruction support activities (Somagahara Garrison)



SDF members hauling down the national flag at the Samawah camp in the late afternoon

In order to independently and proactively provide as much assistance and cooperation as possible for Iraqi reconstruction within the scope of the Constitution, Japan started dispatching SDF units to the Middle Eastern country in December 2003 based on the Law Concerning Special Measures on Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq, approved in July of the same year.

The dispatched SDF units have conducted operations for humanitarian assistance, which center on medical services, water supply, rehabilitation and maintenance of public facilities, and transportation of humanitarian and reconstruction-related goods, in cooperation with support provided by Official Development Assistance (ODA). The SDF units have been also assisting troops of foreign countries in their efforts to restore security and stability in Iraq in a manner that would not hamper the units' activities for humanitarian and reconstruction assistance.

These cooperation activities by Japan can play a role in preventing Iraq from becoming a hotbed of terrorism and helping the country to rebuild itself so that it can become a peaceful, democratic and responsible country, paving the foundation for Japan and Iraq to establish favorable relations in the future. In addition, the operations are not only instrumental in stabilizing the overall Middle East but also are extremely important for Japan because the situation in the Middle East region directly affects the prosperity and stability of Japan, which relies on the region for nearly 90% of its petroleum consumption.

Japan's humanitarian assistance in Iraq and the activities by Japan and the United States for the reconstruction of the country have further cemented the relationship of mutual confidence between Japan and the United States, helping to strengthen their bilateral security alliance.

Japan's support to help rebuild Iraq have won acclaim both from the international community and the Iraqi people as playing a significant role in achieving closer and more effective security cooperation between Japan and the United States in addition to enhancing trust in Japan by the global community. In addition, Japan's cooperation activities have been commended⁶ by many of the Japanese people as contributing to Iraqi reconstruction.

(1) Outline of the Law Concerning Special Measures on Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq and the Basic Plan

1) Outline of the Law Concerning Special Measures on Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq

The international community has been engaged in efforts to improve the welfare of the Iraqi people, and support and promote their initiative to establish a governing organization in a democratic manner for the swift reconstruction of Iraq, following the use of force against Iraq by some U.N. member countries in March 2003 based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions and consequent developments in the country.

The Law Concerning Special Measures on Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq is intended to allow Japan to implement activities for humanitarian and reconstruction assistance and support activities for ensuring security in line with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1483 and others. It is also designed for Japan to contribute proactively and on its own initiative to global efforts for the reconstruction of Iraq in order to promote the peace and stability of the international community, including Japan.

Specific contents of activities for humanitarian and reconstruction assistance and support activities for ensuring security are explained in the Fig. 5-1-4.

The law will expire four years after its enactment but can be extended for up to four years by enacting a separate law if such extension is deemed necessary.

Contents of Activities Based on the Law Concerning Special Measures on Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq

Classification	Content of Activity
Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Medical services</u> ○ Assistance in helping victims of the Iraq war return home as well as provision of food, clothing, pharmaceuticals and other daily necessities, and construction of accommodation facilities for the victims ○ <u>Restoration and upgrading of facilities needed to help improve the welfare of victims of the Iraq war and to help reconstruct Iraq, and improvement of natural environments</u> ○ Advice and instruction on clerical and other administrative work ○ <u>Transport, construction and goods supply to support humanitarian relief activities for victims of the Iraq war, to relieve the damage of the war and to help reconstruct Iraq</u>
Support Activities for Ensuring Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Medical service, transport works, goods supply and other activities provided by Japan in support of efforts by U.N. member countries to help ensure security and safety in Iraq</u>

Notes: 1. The activities that were (or are to be) implemented by the SDF are underlined.
 2. The water supply activity that the GSDF dispatched troops was doing in Iraq is included in the "goods supply" of the humanitarian and reconstruction assistance activities listed above.

Fig. 5-1-4

2) Outline of the Basic Plan

The Government judged it necessary for Japan to conduct activities commensurate to its international status in order to fulfill its responsibility in the international community, and the Cabinet approved the Basic Plan on December 9, 2003.



Minister of State for Defense Nukaga inspects activities of the Iraq Reconstruction Support Group



Minister of State for Defense Nukaga meets with children of an Iraqi school he is inspecting

The Basic Plan stipulated that SDF troops be dispatched to Iraq for up to one year. But Japan, acting on its independent judgment based on the Iraqi situation, revised the Basic Plan twice, in December 2004 and December 2005, in order to extend the duration of humanitarian activities in Iraq for one year each. When the mission was extended in December last year, the Government also decided to respond appropriately regarding the SDF's reconstruction operations in Iraq in the future, after taking into account the state of such aid activities while examining the factors listed below.

- i) The progress of the political process in Iraq
- ii) The local security situation including the progress regarding the transfer of security authority to Iraqi security forces
- iii) Activities of the multinational force including British and Australian troops and changes in the structure of the multinational force

Prior to the Government's revision to the Basic Plan, Minister of State for Defense Fukushima Nukaga visited Iraq and Kuwait in December and observed activities being conducted there by the 8th contingent of the Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) for Iraqi reconstruction and an airlifting unit of the Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF). At the GSDF's Samawah camp in southern Iraq, Nukaga held talks with Al-Hasani, the Governor of the Muthanna Province, and the commanders of British and Australian units being dispatched to Iraq at the time, and confirmed the SDF's operations for humanitarian and reconstruction assistance in Iraq, including undertaking repair work at schools.

The outline of the current Basic Plan is shown in Fig. 5-1-5.

Basic Plan Outline	
Actions	Outline
Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance Activities	Types and description Restoration and construction of public facilities, such as schools, medical and water supply facilities, etc., and transport of humanitarian and reconstruction supplies
	Geographical area ○ Restoration and construction of public facilities, such as schools, medical and water supply facilities, etc. ● Southeastern Iraq, chiefly in Al-Muthanna Province ○ Transport of humanitarian and reconstruction supplies (means of transportation) ● Airstrip facilities in Kuwait and Iraq (aircraft) ● Southeastern Iraq, chiefly in Al-Muthanna Province (vehicles) ● Indian Ocean including the Persian Gulf (sea vessels)
	Scale, organization and equipment of SDF troops ● GSDF: Up to 600 troops and up to 200 vehicles, as well as firearms necessary for securing safety ● JASDF: Up to 8 transport and other aircraft, as well as firearms necessary for securing safety ● MSDF: Up to 2 transport vessels and up to 2 escort vessels
	Period of dispatch December 15, 2003–December 14, 2006 SDF action during this period will be taken with attention to the state of progress in reconstruction, with government attention to various developments and circumstances, such as the state of political processes in Iraq including national legislature elections and establishment of a new government, state of public security including transfer of public security responsibilities to Iraqi security forces and the state of activities, as well as change in composition of multinational forces including the British and Australian forces.
Support Activities for Ensuring Security	Medical service, transportation, storage, telecommunications, construction, repair, maintenance, supply and sanitation, can be conducted as support activities for ensuring security within a scope that does not affect humanitarian and reconstruction assistance activities.

Fig. 5-1-5

(2) SDF Operations

The SDF had undertaken international peace cooperation activities to help Iraq refugees and the people affected by the use of force against Iraq before the enactment of the Law Concerning Special Measures on Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq. After December 2003, the SDF, based on the special measures law, has provided humanitarian and reconstruction support to the country, such as restoration and improvement of schools and other public facilities, which needed to be urgently implemented in view of the hardship facing the local people, provision of medical service, and transportation of aid materials, while

building good relations with countries concerned and local communities, in order to contribute to Iraq's independent efforts to rebuild the country.

Japan's aid mission to Iraq consists of humanitarian contribution led by the SDF and the Government's Official Development Assistance (ODA) which is under jurisdiction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, both of which support each other in tandem. Japan's such efforts to support Iraq, having produced visible results, have won high acclaim from the international community.

Under the support of the international community, including Japan, Iraq's political process advanced steadily and its new Government was inaugurated in May this year, marking the completion of the country's political process set forth under U.N. Security Council Resolutions. In June this year, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki announced the transfer of security authority in Muthanna Province from the coalition forces to the Iraqi Government while the Government of the United Kingdom decided to take necessary measures to realize the transfer.

Based on the developments described above, the Government of Japan judged that the reconstruction stage in which quick support measures were necessary has basically ended in Muthanna Province, both on the rehabilitation and security fronts, with Iraq shifting to the stage of self-help reconstruction. On June 20 of this year, the Government of Japan, judging that GSDF units being dispatched to Iraq have achieved their initial objective of supporting Iraqi reconstruction efforts in collaboration with the international community, decided to have the units redeploy from the province.

Even after the planned redeployment of the GSDF from Iraq, the ASDF, in order to meet needs and demands from the United Nations and the coalition forces, among others, plans to continue its operations in Iraq, centering on humanitarian and reconstruction support activities such as airlifting aid goods to Baghdad and Erbil.

I) Activities of GSDF Units

In January 2004, the first contingent of the GSDF for Iraqi reconstruction and the first GSDF unit for supporting Iraqi reconstruction were dispatched. Since then, each contingent has undertaken aid operations in Iraq for about three months before being replaced by another contingent, while each unit has operated for about six months before being replaced by another unit. As of June this year when Japan decided to redeploy from Iraq, the 10th contingent and the 5th unit were operating in Samawah. GSDF personnel belonging to the contingent and the unit are conducting activities as shown below in Fig. 5-1-6, while taking into consideration demands from local people and local customs.

A total of about 5,500 GSDF troops have participated in humanitarian and reconstruction support activities in Iraq between their first dispatch to the country and the period of redeployment, and have made significant contributions in various fields, improving life-related infrastructure and reversing severe employment conditions in Samawah. These activities were highly appreciated by local people, authorities in Muthanna Province, the Iraqi Government and the international community, and helped improve social infrastructure in the province to the minimum level from which the provincial Government can rebuild itself without relying on support from Japan's GSDF. In light of these developments, the Government of Japan, in order to expedite further reconstruction of Muthanna Province, has decided to have the GSDF redeploy from the area. In line with the decision, GSDF troops have begun redeploying from Samawah in groups.

a. Progress of Reconstruction in Muthanna Province

When Japan's reconstruction assistance to Iraq started, basic necessities for living, such as water needed for daily use (for example drinking water), as well medical and educational facilities, were not adequate. The overall security situation also remained tense. Under such conditions, Japan made use of the self-contained



A monument built at a facility of an elementary school



Children of (Al-Agrass) Elementary School



A picture is posted up on the wall of a school for handicapped children repaired by the SDF

Status of the Activities of the Group of the SDF Contingent for the Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Mission around Samawah (as of the end of May 2006)

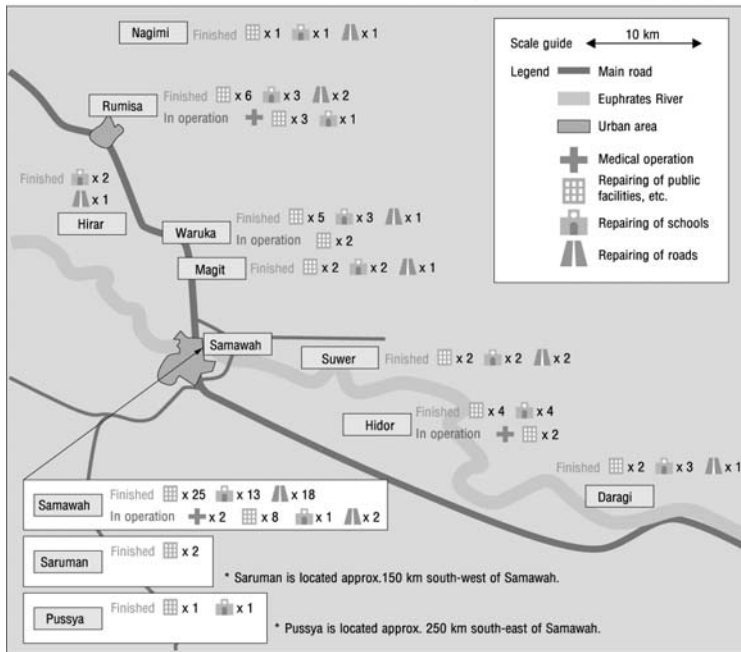


Fig. 5-1-6



A water-purifying facility is completed in Rumaythah



Al-Hutrn Elementary School is completed



A water-supply vehicle provided by Japan



An SDF member teaching Iraqi medical staff how to use medical equipment



SDF members checking a water tank in Warka



Two SDF members - a father and daughter - engaged in Iraqi humanitarian and reconstruction support activities

GSDF Activities Based on Law Concerning Special Measures on Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq

Activities, etc.	Description	Action	Results
Medical activities Since February 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action by GSDF medical personnel at four hospitals including Samawah General Hospital <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and counseling of local medical doctors regarding diagnosis methods and treatment policy • Training and counseling in use of medical equipment supplied by Japan ○ Technical training of ambulance personnel in Al-Muthanna Province ○ Medical support including technical training for management of pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical warehouse 	(Medical technology assistance—approximately 264 locations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Newborn infant mortality rate in Samawah reduced by one third with development of basic medical infrastructure ★ Improvement in emergency medicine capability
Water supply activities Since March 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water purification and water supply to water supply vehicles in Samawah camp <p>Water supply activities by GSDF completed with startup of water purification facility installed close to the camp under ODA program, as of February 4.</p>	(Approximately 53,500 tons of water supplied in total (for approximately 1,200 people per day))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Water shortage at start of aid program generally resolved
Public facility restoration and construction Since March 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repair of walls, floors, electrical circuits, etc., of schools in Al-Muthanna Province 	Completion of 34 out of 36 facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Maintenance of school facilities in roughly a third of schools in Al-Muthanna Province, resulting in improvement of educational environment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Groundwork and pavement of roads to be used by local citizens 	Completion of 27 out of 29 locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Greater convenience with construction of major roads important for daily living
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repair works for other facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical clinic (Primary Health Center) • Nursing facilities and low-income residential housing in Samawah • Water purification facilities in Warka and Rumeitha • Uruk ruins, Olympic Stadium and other cultural facilities 	Completion of 51 out of 66 facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Improvement in the quality of life and culture for citizens of Al-Muthanna Province
Local employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local businesses mobilized for restoration and development of public facilities ○ Local citizens recruited for interpreting and garbage collection at the base camp 	Jobs created for as many as 1,100 people per day (totaling 470,000 man-days)	



**Establish the foundation for Iraqis to
restore the country for themselves**

Fig. 5-1-7

[COLUMN]

VOICE

Voices of Iraqis working in Muthanna Province

In Muthanna Province, southeastern Iraq, where GSDF troops are engaged in a humanitarian and reconstruction mission, local people's living standards have been improving gradually. Voices of Iraqi people who have played a role in supporting the reconstruction of Iraq will be cited.

Being a doctor, I am closely watching how the situation in Iraq has been changing on the medical front. My impression is that the quality of medical services has become better in the region thanks to SDF activities to support Iraqi reconstruction. At the hospital where I work, SDF members are offering technical advice to our doctors regarding medical treatment. Thanks to the SDF's such support, diseases for which even just examining patients was hard, mainly due to the shortage of medical equipment, have become treatable, serving the overall interest of the region.



Mr. Azhar, doctor

“Just wonderful” is the word I would use to describe the activities of the SDF in Muthanna Province. Thanks to the SDF's support in medical technique, the hospital where I work has become able to fully utilize medical equipment that had been donated by Japan. A friend of mine, seeing a large classroom and a pure white wall of a school after it was repaired by SDF members, said, “The school has transformed into something I have never seen before.”



Mr. Ahmed, nurse

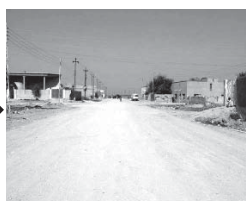
I have been working with Japan's SDF members for more than two years mainly to undertake the repair of damaged roads. Due to the SDF's support in road reconstruction and others, the quality of school education and medical services, and the traffic situation have improved significantly while the number of unemployed people has decreased due to an increase in new job opportunities. Recently, Japan has begun to construct a large-scale electric power station in Iraq. When the station is completed, the shortage of electricity, the biggest problem for us, will be solved, making the region a much easier place to live.



Mr. Abbas, road-repairing engineer



Repair of a city road (Al-Muamin) in Samawah



Repair of Al Julian Elementary School (Majid)



nature of the SDF, capable of safely and smoothly operating on its own, and focused on immediately needed assistance to create the minimum foundation needed to enable Iraq to achieve reconstruction on its own.

Combined with over 200 million dollars of free aid, these activities and their results, as shown in Fig. 5-1-7, have steadily improved living conditions in Muthanna Province during these two years. For example, on the medical front, medical facilities in major cities of the province have been put into order, and it is said that due to medical technical instructions, the death rate of newly born children at Samawah Maternity Hospital has improved to one-third the level seen before the start of GSDF activities. Additionally, due to repairs at schools, many children have been able to receive education at schools, producing much result, including revival of children's smile at schools. Yen loans are also to be used to assist in the fields of irrigation and transportation in Muthanna Province.

Looking on the entire situation in Iraq, however, the country is still on its way toward reconstruction, necessitating continued support from the international community. Based on this judgment, the Government of Japan decided to provide continued support to Iraq to enable the country to achieve full-fledged reconstruction on its own.

Japan, even after the planned redeployment of GSDF troops from Iraq, will continue to support the country financially through the disbursement of ODA, in order to contribute to Iraqi reconstruction.

In May this year, Japan announced a plan to donate 1,500 sets of picture books (24,000 books)⁷ to Iraqi schools when it held a ceremony to mark the completion of repair work by the GSDF for an elementary school in Samawah. Japan presented these books - Japanese picture books translated into Arabic language and children-friendly books sold in Arabic-language countries - to 348 facilities including all elementary schools in Muthanna Province and facilities for children.



Iraqi children reading picture books donated by Japan at a school

b. Cooperation with British and Australian Troops

In March last year, British troops replaced Dutch troops to ensure security in Muthanna Province. In May last year, Australian troops were also dispatched to Samawah to join the British in this mission.

Dispatched GSDF units needed to keep in close cooperation with British and Australian troops when executing their assigned duties. In order to promote such cooperation, the GSDF units and those of the British and Australian militaries sent liaison officers to each other's camps, and sponsored regular meetings to exchange views, and put on various cultural events. Following the decision in Muthanna Province to transfer security authority to Iraq, British and Australian troops dispatched to the province decided to redeploy from there to other areas.

2) Activities of MSDF Units

The transportation vessel Osumi and the escort vessel Murasame, with about 300 MSDF personnel in charge of maritime transport aboard, departed from the port of Muroran, Hokkaido, for Kuwait on February 20, 2004, transporting about 70 vehicles and others to be used by the GSDF to start its Iraqi reconstruction

mission.

3) Activities of ASDF Units

Starting on December 26, 2003, the ASDF's airlifting squadron, consisting of three C-130H transport planes and about 200 personnel, was dispatched for Japan's Iraqi reconstruction operations. Since March 3, 2004, the C-130H planes have airlifted goods and materials donated by Japan for humanitarian and reconstruction use, including medical equipment, similar goods donated by other countries and relevant international organizations, and personnel dispatched by such countries and organizations as well as replenishing supplies being used by the dispatched GSDF units.

After the planned redeployment of the GSDF from Iraq, the ASDF, meeting needs from the United Nations and the multilateral forces, will continue to provide support to the United Nations and the multilateral forces, airlifting goods to Baghdad and Erbil, where United Nations operations are underway, and will continue to contribute to Iraqi reconstruction and its stability. As of the end of May this year, airlifting conducted by the ASDF for the Iraqi mission totaled 322 times with the total goods and materials transported weighing 449.2 tons.

When a series of kidnapping cases broke out in Iraq in April 2004, targeting foreigners including Japanese nationals, Japanese media with correspondents posted in Samawah to cover the GSDF activities filed a request through the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs that the SDF help them evacuate from the area. Acting on the request, the ASDF, in cooperation with the GSDF, transported 10 such media representatives from Talill Airport to Kuwait on April 15, using the ASDF's C-130H aircraft.



The 200th airlifting by a C-130H transport plane achieved in October last year

4) Dispatch of Liaison Officers

The Joint Staff Council has dispatched⁸ liaison officers to the U.S. Central Command in Florida since August 2002. The officers are tasked with gathering information on the local situation that might be useful for the SDF's humanitarian and reconstruction assistance operations in Iraq and the Indian Ocean, and are also assigned to coordinate with officials of the U.S. Central Command on SDF operations being undertaken under the Law Concerning Special Measures on Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq and Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law. Coordination with the U.S. side has contributed to efficient SDF operations.

Moreover, the dispatched GSDF units have sent liaison officers to the headquarters of the multilateral force in Baghdad and other places to manage coordination between the GSDF and the multilateral force, and had stationed other personnel in Kuwait for duties related to logistical support being provided to GSDF groups operating in Samawah, including the dispatch of personnel and the delivery and procurement of aid goods and materials.

After the planned redeployment of the GSDF from Iraq, the dispatched ASDF units will send liaison officers to the headquarters of the multilateral forces in Baghdad and other places.

5) Mental Health Care and Welfare of Dispatched SDF Personnel

It is extremely important to improve the working environment for the dispatched SDF personnel so that they can fulfill their assigned duty while maintaining their health both physically and mentally. In order to

help the members to maintain morale and devote themselves to fulfilling their assigned duty under severe working conditions⁹, welfare-related facilities were constructed in the camps for the GSDF and ASDF. Such facilities include an athletic room for physical training and a communications room where they can speak with their families back in Japan.

Communication between the dispatched SDF members and their families in Japan are ensured at the campsite via international phone calls, television phones and e-mail services. Moreover, SDF members and their families can exchange video correspondence to let each other know about how they are doing. These services are essential to maintain close family bonds. In Japan, family support centers have been established to reply to all kinds of questions, concerns and problems raised by the dispatched SDF members' families. The centers sponsor briefing sessions with the families to provide them with necessary information. These support services are intended to enable the SDF members in Iraq to devote themselves to fulfilling their duty without worrying about their family members back in Japan.

The SDF offers mental health-care services for SDF members soon to be dispatched to Iraq. These members take a short course in Japan on how to reduce stress. In Iraq, sufficient mental care is provided to SDF members. SDF members who have been trained and become designated counselors are placed to ease assigned members' anxiety or problems, enabling them to focus on their assigned work even under severe working conditions.

In addition, medical officers accompany the SDF units on the Iraqi reconstruction missions. Under certain situations, the Defense Agency is prepared to send psychiatrists to Iraq, and is ready to recall SDF members with serious diseases in order to provide them with adequate medical treatment in Japan.

(3) Evaluation of Japan's Efforts by Other Countries

Japan's activities in the rebuilding of Iraq have won acclaim and gratitude from Iraq and many other countries, as mentioned below. A public opinion poll conducted on local people showed that 80% of those polled support the Japanese operations.

1) Evaluation in Iraq

Prior to Japan's decision in December last year to extend the Basic Plan, then Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jafari visited Japan and held talks with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. The Iraqi Prime Minister, representing the people of Iraq, expressed deep gratitude to Koizumi over a range of support measures by Japan for the Middle East country, including the dispatch of SDF units to southern Iraq, providing financial assistance through ODA second only to, the United States in amount and a waiver of about \$6 billion in Japan's loans to Iraq. The Iraqi Prime Minister told Koizumi that the Iraqi people highly appreciate the SDF's aid operations in Samawah as the mission has contributed to the local area, with the dispatched SDF members building friendly relations with local people. He also said the Iraqi people have fully understood the SDF mission's nature of humanitarian and reconstruction assistance, calling for the Japanese Government to extend the SDF dispatch for another year.

Meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Aso Taro during his visit to Japan in November 2005, Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari thanked Japan for sending SDF units to Iraq to support its reconstruction efforts. He told Aso that the SDF's aid operations in Iraq have been welcomed by local people and their activities will stay in the Iraqi people's memory.

On June 22, shortly after Japan's decision to redeploy the GSDF from Iraq, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki talked with Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi over the phone and expressed his country's gratitude for the GSDF's activities in the southern Iraqi city of Samawah, from which the GSDF had decided to leave.