

[COLUMN]

VOICE

Voices of SDF personnel engaged in humanitarian and reconstruction assistance in Iraq

The Kijimas, both of whom were dispatched to Samawah as members of the 9th Iraq Reconstruction Assistance Group, were interviewed and asked about their activities in Samawah.

9th Iraq Reconstruction Assistance Group

Sergeant First Class of the GSDF Takashi Kijima
(presently serving with the First Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion)

At the SDF campsite in Samawah, I was engaged in the maintenance mainly of power generators. The Iraqis working at the campsite with whom I had the opportunity to talk were much troubled by frequent power failures, caused by the shortage of electricity. But they were always cheerful, with one of them telling me with a smile, "The situation will become better soon because Japan has started to build a large-scale power station." . Seeing such cheerfulness, I felt glad to have been sent to Samawah and of being Japanese. I also felt proud of engaging in aid activities under the Japanese flag.

My wife and I were dispatched to Iraq at the same time. I did not get to see her often, except during rest hours, but when we did meet, we talked about Iraq, hoping the country will some day rebuild itself and become an affluent country on its own effort.



Sergeant First Class Kijima checking a power generator

9th Iraq Reconstruction Assistance Group

Leading Private of the GSDF Hiroko KIJIMA
(currently serving with the First Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion)

I felt honored when I was chosen to be dispatched to Samawah for the Iraqi humanitarian and reconstruction mission, because I had been hoping to take part in the SDF's international peace cooperation activities since joining the GSDF.

I was surprised when I found out that my husband, who had also been hoping to be sent to Samawah, and I were both to be dispatched there at the same time. But we also felt pleased to see our common wish come true.

In Samawah, I worked as a cook. Food materials being used in the camp kitchen did not include those that Iraqi people refrain from eating due to religious reasons, such as pork and liquor used for cooking. When I explained this to some Iraqis, one of them excitedly said, "We are very moved by the Japanese people's enthusiastic efforts to respect our culture and get on well with Iraqis." Hearing these voices of Iraqi people, I really felt that I was playing a significant role in Iraqi reconstruction.



Leading Private Kijima working as a cook in Samawah

Voice of an SDF officer engaged in humanitarian and reconstruction assistance in Iraq

7th Iraq Reconstruction Support Airlift Wing

Major of the ASDF

Osamu KATO

(currently serving with the 401st flying squadron of the Air Transport Squadron)

In an interview, Major Kato was asked about the hardship he faced when dispatched to Iraq as a pilot of C-130H transport aircraft, which mainly airlifted humanitarian and reconstruction goods and materials from Japan, other relevant countries and relevant organizations to Iraq in line with the Law Concerning Special Measures on Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq.

Q: What did you find good about having engaged in the airlifting mission?

A: I was very honored because I was able to engage in the Iraqi reconstruction mission, which has drawn keen attention from the international community, as a member of Japan's delegation for such a mission. In particular, I feel pleased and also proud of having fulfilled the mission without any accident.

All crew members dispatched for the airlifting mission had a stronger sense of solidarity and unity than we could have when assigned to an airlifting mission in Japan, because any loosening of guard in aircraft maneuvering would have affected the safety of the members. As the person in charge of heading the airlifting mission, it was a great pleasure because all the crew members with whom I worked for about half a year, including a pre-dispatch training period, fulfilled the mission successfully.



ASDF Major Kato (2nd from right in the front row) and crew members of the dispatched unit

Q: Did you have any difficulties or worries when you were engaged in the mission?

A: In flying in Iraq, we were on full alert against any possible attacks using portable missiles and machine guns. So, I gripped the control stick while visually checking the surroundings with a firm resolve to avoid being hit by any attack.

I felt significant tension when our aircraft took off or landed because terrorist attacks were likely at the airport and because visibility around the airport and its surroundings became extremely poor when dust clouds rose due to wind.

But we were able to fulfill the mission with confidence because we had sufficient training to ensure safety before being dispatched to Iraq and also because the aircraft was fully furnished with necessary protection gear.

We were dispatched to Iraq during the hottest season of the year with the outside temperature exceeding 50C. The temperature inside the aircraft rose further and the crew members broke out in sweat because air-conditioning could not be turned on to prevent the entry of desert sand. So, the mission was very taxing both physically and mentally, but all of us felt a sense of relief and achievement at the end of the airlifting mission.

2) Evaluation in Other Countries

U.S. President George W. Bush thanked Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi during their latest summit meeting, held when Koizumi visited the United States this June, for Japan's humanitarian reconstruction assistance efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and for Japan's support to various countries operating in the Indian Ocean.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice visited Japan in July 2005 and highly commended Japan for its contribution to rebuilding Iraq and Afghanistan. Rice also said Japan's assistance in Iraq has wonderfully supported the Iraqi people, suggesting that Japan's unique aid activities in Iraq have been generating intended results.

During the Japan-U.S. defense ministers' meeting, which took place when Japanese Minister of State for Defense Fukushima Nukaga visited Washington in January this year, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld highly appreciated Japan's past efforts to rebuild Iraq. Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz, who also serves as Inspector General and Minister of Defense and Aviation, visited Japan in April. During his meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi, the Crown Prince highly valued Japan's efforts to reconstruct and stabilize Iraq and expressed gratitude for its contribution in the country.

3. Activities Responding to International Terrorism

(1) Efforts of International Community

Since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, the international community has been fighting against terrorism on military and various other fronts in a bid to eradicate the violent act. But the threat of terrorist attacks has continued to exist in the global community in view of the outbreak in various parts of the world of a series of suspected terrorist acts¹⁰ by international terrorist organizations including Al Qaeda. Against this background, the global community needs to continue a long-term battle in order to eradicate terrorism.

A complex diversity of local conflicts poses a threat not just to peace and security of each region. If international terrorist organizations penetrate into regions where governments have been devastated due to civil wars, activities of these organizations may well proliferate into the rest of the world.

Strongholds of terrorist groups like Al Qaeda are said to exist mainly in the national border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. As Afghanistan has continued to serve as a production center for narcotics, a major funding source for terrorists, the U.S. military and others have been campaigning to combat terrorism in the region under Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). (See Fig. 5-1-8.)

About 20 countries have dispatched their troops to Afghanistan to have them take part in the U.S.-led operation in an attempt to stamp out terrorists in the region and the operation has produced much results. But some groups suspected of being linked with terrorist organizations and of involvement in smuggling of narcotics and weapons are believed to have escaped the region and moved to the sea via mountainous areas. These groups, using vessels, are believed to have already moved to the Middle East, Africa, Europe or Southeast Asia to start new terrorist activities there. Some of them are said to have been involved in terrorist acts in these regions, using bombs.

The international community has been engaged in Operating Enduring Freedom (OEF)-Maritime Interdic-



Supply ship Oumi refueling a foreign vessel engaging in an OEF-MIO mission while escort ship Inazuma patrols the vicinity

tion Operation (MIO)¹¹ in the Indian Ocean in a bid to block terrorists from escaping using marine routes and prevent the proliferation of weapons, ammunition and narcotics. At present, U.S., European and Pakistani warships have been operating in there in order to undertake MIO activities. MIO has already generated results with some of these warships confiscating a large amount of drugs, guns and portable anti-tank rockets from suspicious boats after making wireless inquiries and conducting on-the-spot inspections of these ships.

In addition, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) has been trying to maintain security in Afghanistan and rebuild¹² the country, reflecting the pledge by the international society to prevent the Asian country from again becoming a hotbed of terrorism.

Dispersion of Terrorists and Outline of OEF (Conceptual Image)

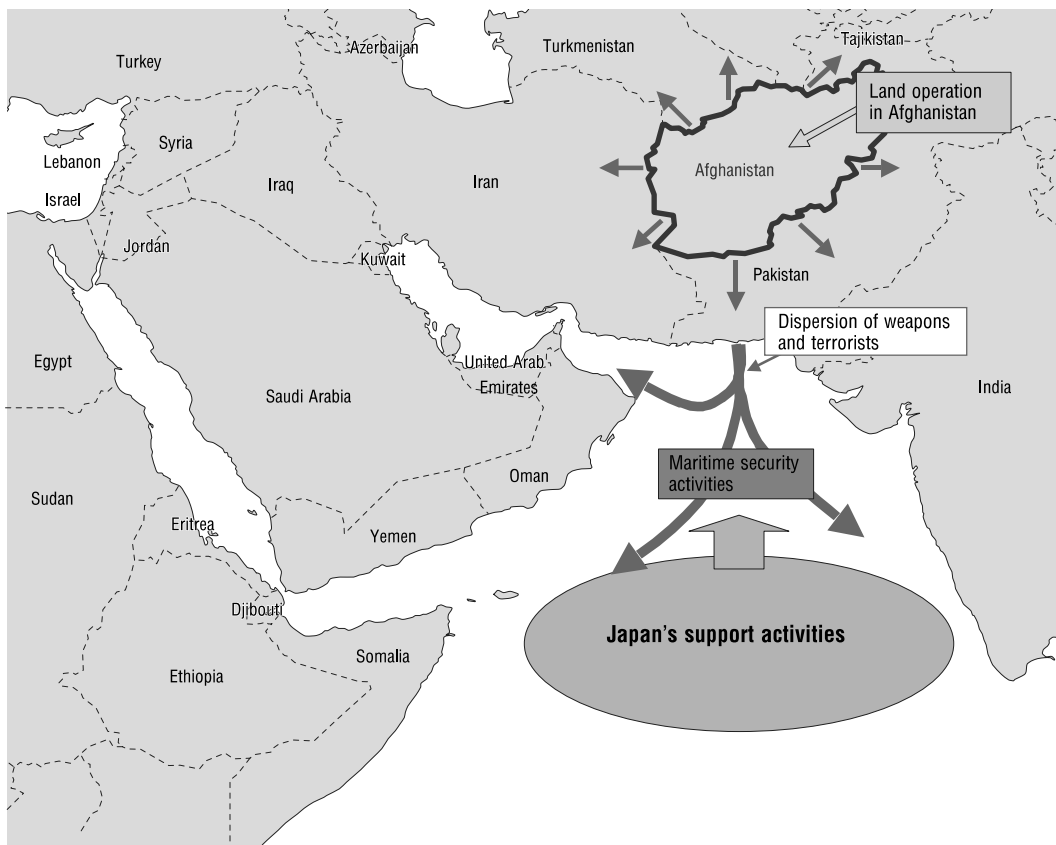


Fig. 5-1-8

(2) Japan's Efforts in Combating Terrorism

At a time when the international community has been stepping up its battle against terrorism by using comprehensive means including those in diplomatic, police, judicial, information and economic areas as well as the military area, it is necessary for Japan to reinforce its efforts to combat terrorism as well in collaboration with other countries. Based on this idea, Japan is making anti-terrorism efforts¹³ on various fronts.

Activities by the SDF to support the international anti-terrorism campaign in line with the Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law have contributed to the peace and security of the international community, including Japan, enabling Japan to fulfill a role commensurate to its status in the international society and increasing

global confidence in Japan and also in making Japan-U.S. cooperation in security even more close and effective.

Specifically, soon after the terrorist attacks took place in the United States on September 11, 2001, Japan came to perceive the fight against international terrorism as its own task, and clarified its position that it would make a positive and independent contribution to world efforts to prevent and eradicate terrorism. In October 2001, a set of bills for the Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law passed the Diet. Following the enforcement of the law, the MSDF has conducted cooperation and support activities, refueling naval vessels of the United States and other nations operating in the Indian Ocean. Meanwhile, the ASDF has been airlifting goods and supplies of the U.S. military as part of its cooperation and support activities.

These activities by Japan's SDF have won high acclaim from the international community including the United States as expediting activities being undertaken by worships of many countries to prevent the escape of terrorists, block the proliferation of weapons and ammunition, and increase the deterrence against terror acts.

(3) Outline of the Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law and the Basic Plan

1) Outline of the Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law

The purpose of the Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law is to specify the following measures in order for Japan to contribute actively and on its own initiative to the efforts of the international community to prevent and eradicate international terrorism, thereby ensuring the peace and security of the international community, including that of Japan.

- i) The measures Japan implements in support of the activities of the U.S. Armed Forces and other foreign forces are aimed at eradicating the threat of the 9-11 terrorist attacks, thereby contributing to achieving the purposes of the U.N. Charter, and procedures and other necessary actions for implementing these measures.
- ii) The measures Japan implements from a humanitarian point of view based on U.N. resolutions or requests made by the United Nations and other international organizations, and procedures and other necessary actions for implementing these measures.

Provision of Goods and Services by the SDF		
Conducted as cooperation and support activities	Supply:	Provision of water, refueling, and provision of meals and similar goods and services
	Transportation:	Transportation of personnel and goods, and provision of transportation materials and similar goods and services
	Repair and maintenance:	Repair and maintenance, provision of repair and maintenance equipment as well as parts and components, and provision of similar goods and services
	Medical activities:	Provision of medical services for the sick and wounded, sanitary equipment as well as provision of similar goods and services
	Communications:	Use of communication facilities, provision of communication equipment as well as provision of similar goods and services
	Airport and seaport services:	Support for in-coming and out-going aircraft and ships entering and leaving ports in Japan, loading and unloading, as well as provision of similar goods and services
	Base services:	Collection and disposal of waste material, provision of power and similar goods and services
	Lodging:	Use of lodging facilities, as well as provision of bedding equipment and related materials and services
		Disinfection:
		Provision of disinfection, disinfection equipment and related materials as well as similar goods and services

Notes: 1. Provision of materials will not include weapons (including ammunition).
 2. Provision of goods and services will not include fueling and maintenance for aircraft which is in preparation for combating.
 3. Transportation of goods will not include the land transportation of weapons(including ammunition) in foreign territory.

Fig. 5-1-9

Activities to be conducted by the SDF under the Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law are i) cooperation and support activities¹⁴, ii) search and rescue activities¹⁵ and iii) activities¹⁶ to assist people affected by terrorist acts. The types of materials and services to be provided by the SDF as part of its cooperation and support activities (including activities to support search and rescue operations by militaries of foreign countries) are shown in Fig 5-1-9.

The Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law is a temporary law, expiring two years from the date of its enactment. If deemed necessary, however, its effect can be extended by up to two years by a separate law. The law was revised to extend its period of validity for two years until November 1, 2005, as it was to expire on November 1, 2003.

Furthermore, the Government judged it necessary for Japan to continue making efforts on its own initiative to eradicate terrorist activities in the world. Based on this judgment, the Diet approved a bill in October last year to extend the effect of the Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law by an additional year through November 2006.

2) Outline of the Basic Plan

In light of the situation surrounding international terrorist activities, countermeasures carried out by various countries have been continuing in the Indian Ocean for more than four and a half years. The Government assessed anti-terrorist operations being undertaken by these countries and judged it necessary for Japan to maintain its cooperation and support activities. In April this year, the Government changed the Basic Plan to mark its ninth revision, following the extension of the effect of the Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law in October last year.

An outline of the current Basic Plan is shown in Fig 5-1-10.



Supply ship Oumi leaves for the Indian Ocean in March this year (Sasebo Base)

Basic Plan

Action	Description
Cooperation and support activities	(1) Delivery of supplies (supply of fuel to vessels and for helicopters on board vessels) (2) Transport (transport of vessel fuel by transport vessels & transport of personnel and goods by aircraft) (3) Others (repair and maintenance, medical service and domestic port administration)
Search and rescue activities	SDF troops engaged in cooperation and support activities and assistance to affected people to spot refugees or to engage in search in area in the Indian Ocean and its airspace designated for cooperation and disaster relief activities, when requested by US troops, etc.
Assistance to affected people	Supplies for daily living to be granted to UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) when requested by the organization

Fig. 5-1-10

(4) SDF Activities

1) Activities by MSDF Units to Help Affected People and Cooperation and Support Activities

a. Assistance to Affected People

The escort vessel Sawagiri and the minesweeping mother ship Uraga, dispatched by MSDF units as part of its efforts to assist people affected by combat in line with the Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law, transported goods and materials necessary for daily life to the port of Karachi, Pakistan. Specifically, the vessels carried about 200 tons of aid materials¹⁷ such as tents and blankets and delivered them to a local representative office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for two days from December 12,



MSDF members exercising on a vessel in the Indian Ocean



MSDF members engaging in refueling work on the deck of a supply vessel

2001. The *Uraga*, having unloaded its materials, returned to Japan on December 31 in the same year, completing its entire mission.

b. Cooperation and Support Activities by the MSDF

The escort vessel *Kurama*, the *Kirishima*, and the supply vessel *Hamana* were dispatched to the Indian Ocean for information-gathering operations as part of measures worked out by Japan on September 19, 2001 to respond to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. On December 2, 2001, the three vessels began fueling U.S. naval vessels in the ocean as part of the MSDF's cooperation and support activities. The destroyer *Sawagiri* and the supply vessel *Towada*, which had engaged in relief activities for people affected by combat, joined the three vessels in the Indian Ocean. These MSDF vessels also began fueling British naval ships on January 29, 2002.

Japan had initially limited the ships to be refueled as a part of its cooperation and support activities to those belonging to the U.S. and British militaries. However, the Government of Japan, judging it necessary to increase the operational efficiency of the global fight against terrorism, expanded the scope¹⁸ of countries receiving refueling gradually. As a result, ships from a total of 11 countries became subject to refueling by Japan's MSDF as of the end of May this year.

Since the October 2004 revision of the Basic Plan, Japan has supplied fuel not only to ships of foreign militaries but also to ship-based helicopters. Japan also started supplying water to foreign naval ships following the revision.

Refueling by the MSDF units as part of Japan's cooperation and support activities since such activities started reached 600 times in March this year.

The number of refueling for ships by the MSDF units reached 634 times as of the end of May this year, with 437,000 kiloliters of fuel supplied. The number of refueling for ship-based helicopters totaled 37 times with 560 kiloliters of fuel supplied and the number of water supply for ships came to 64 times with 3,400 tons of water supplied.

Of the five supply vessels - the *Towada*, the *Hamana*, the *Tokiwa*, the *Mashu* and the newly joined *Oumi*, which Japan has assigned to the refueling mission since March 2006, - one or two have always been dispatched to the Indian Ocean. In order to place these supply vessels under guard, one to two escort ships have always accompanied them.

The MSDF ships are assigned conventional domestic duties and training sessions for the crew, and at the same time, many of them are dispatched aboard to participate in defense exchanges with foreign militaries and multilateral defense drills and exercises, which have been on the rise in recent years. As these ships

need to fulfill the duties mentioned above, and also engage in Japan's cooperation and support activities, scheduling for unit and ship assignments is worked out in a meticulous and calculated manner.

From February to March 2003, the MSDF dispatched the transport vessel Shimokita and the escort ship Ikazuchi and transported construction machinery and other goods for the Thai army from Thailand to a country on the coast of the Indian Ocean. MSDF vessels sent on missions since July last year are shown in Figure 5-1-11.

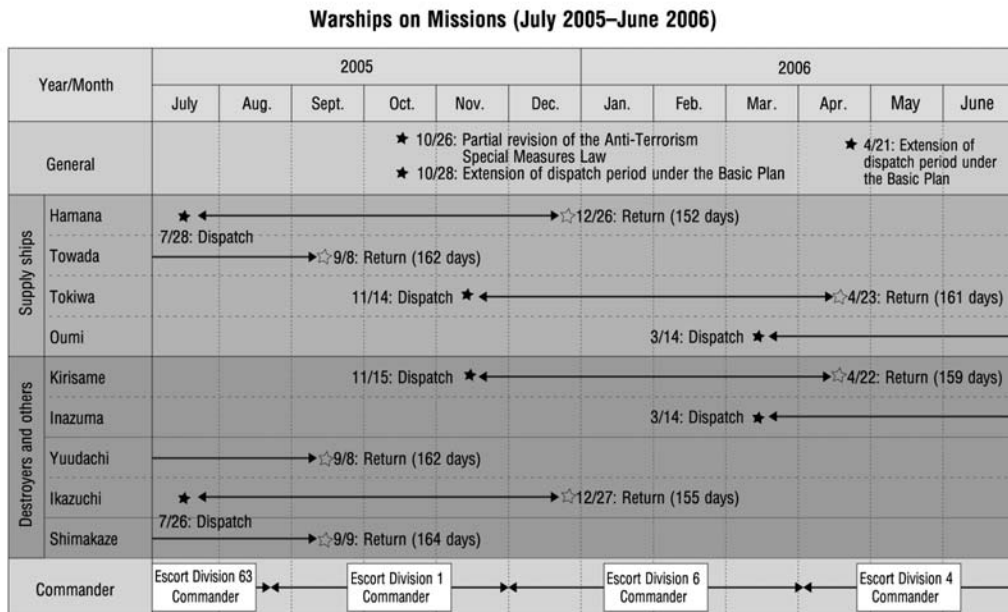


Fig. 5-1-11

2) Cooperation and Support Activities by ASDF Units

ASDF units started transport operations between U.S. Forces Japan (USFJ) bases on November 29, 2001, using C-130H aircraft from the First Transport Wing (Komaki Base), and overseas transport between USFJ bases and U.S. bases in Guam and other areas on December 3, 2001.

The ASDF units have engaged in transport operations as part of Japan's cooperation and support activities for the U.S.-led anti-terrorism operations, mainly using its C-130H transportation aircraft. From July 2002, the ASDF units also began using C-1 transportation aircraft in addition to C-130H transportation aircraft for transport operations between the U.S. military bases in Japan. Since July 2004, it has been using only C-1 aircraft for domestic transportation.

Under these transport operations, the ASDF units have airlifted goods and materials of the U.S. military, such as aircraft engines, components, maintenance equipment and clothing.

The number of transport operations by the ASDF units since they commenced cooperation and support activities for the U.S.-led anti-terrorism campaign reached 300 in February this year and 315 at the end of May this year. (15 times for overseas transport and 300 times for domestic transport)

3) Welfare Facilities for Dispatched SDF Personnel and Mental Health Care

Dispatched SDF members, who are required to respond adequately to any emergency, are under constant strain during their assignment. The SDF thus takes measures to ensure that participating SDF personnel can maintain their morale and concentrate on their assignments by eliminating feelings of unease and concern by SDF personnel and their families.

The SDF provides welfare-related services to help these SDF members fully devote themselves to their duties without concerns by maintaining strong bonds with their families in Japan. It also offers necessary care and support to the families of the dispatched SDF personnel who are in charge of households back in Japan.

Specifically, communications via satellite-based cell phones and e-mail are available between participating SDF personnel and their families while temporary post offices are set up on assigned vessels to send letters to and from Japan. In addition, video correspondence is exchanged between both parties, and family members are briefed on the situation concerning participating SDF personnel at briefing sessions. Special centers are set up by the Defense Agency and the SDF provide consultations and advice to family members of dispatched SDF personnel.

Mental education and training are available on an individual basis for SDF personnel soon to be dispatched, particularly commanders. After SDF members are dispatched, they can receive mental health checkups and seek advice from trained counselors while they are aboard a vessel.

(5) Commendation from the World for Japan's Contribution

In reference to Japan's efforts to fight against international terrorism, Afghan President Hamid Kharzai said in a speech delivered to a U.N. General Assembly session in September 2004 that he wishes to express gratitude to all countries, particularly the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain and Canada, which have dispatched their troops and allocated resources, on behalf of the Afghan people. In addition, when then Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura visited Afghanistan in April last year, Kharzai told him that Afghanistan thanks Japan much for its efforts to rebuild the country in the past three years, particularly its assistance in facilitating the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR)¹⁹ process, and operations by Japan's SDF in refueling vessels operating in the Indian Ocean.

At an international conference held in London in January this year to find ways to rebuild Afghanistan, Afghan President Kharzai, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice separately referred to Japan's efforts to help reconstruct Afghanistan in their speeches and highly appreciated such assistance.

When an MSDF vessel paid a port call in France in July last year on a practice ocean voyage, the French Navy provided fuel to the vessel free of charge, expressing France's gratitude to Japan for supporting the international anti-terrorism campaign and the country's contribution to the international community.

[COLUMN]

COMMENTARY

Support activities conducted by MSDF units in the Indian Ocean

Japan has been engaged in cooperation and support activities for more than four years since the enforcement of the Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law, including continuously dispatching supply vessels to the Indian Ocean to refuel vessels of other countries undertaking Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO).

In the Indian Ocean, vessels could stay in its waters only for several days to undertake MIO if there was no refueling support from supply ships. This means that vessels, after

having consumed their fuel, would have to call at ports to receive new fuel. But if vessels leave waters where they are undertaking MIO each time they need refueling, the efficiency of the operation would drop significantly, easily allowing terrorists to flee to other countries and thus raising the possibility of weapons and narcotics -sources of funds for international terrorists - proliferating around the world.

Maritime refueling by MSDF units to support MIO by other countries enables their vessels to continue to undertake such operations in a calculated manner and also for prolonged periods, raising the effectiveness of MIO.

In actual operations, a supply ship delivers fuel to a recipient vessel through a hose connected to each hull. The operation requires both ships to move in parallel by maintaining the same distance of 30 to 50 meters and cruising at the same speed for several hours (a maximum of six hours). The personnel who are assigned to this job must have high ship-maneuvering capabilities, sophisticated skills and perseverance. Near sites where refueling is underway, ships or aircraft whose nationality is not immediately known are sometimes observed. This means SDF personnel who are engaged in refueling operations need to remain alert at all times so that they can quickly respond to any emergency. Because of the nature of this work, the SDF personnel constantly experience extremely heavy strain throughout their mission. Their working conditions are also severe, with outside temperatures exceeding 40C. On the ship deck, the temperature sometimes hits more than 70C. Despite such severe working conditions, every SDF personnel is fulfilling his or her mission patiently.



Supply ship Mashu conducting maritime refueling for a U.S. vessel

Japan's support activities, being conducted by self-sacrificing SDF personnel, have been appreciated highly by other countries. One country praised Japan's such activities saying, "Some countries have been able to dispatch their vessels on an anti-terrorist MIO mission thanks to refueling support by Japan.

¹ Remarks made by then Commander of U.S. Central Command DeLong during his meeting with Japanese MSDF Chief of Staff

4. Efforts to Support U.N. peacekeeping operations (PKO)

As a way to prevent the recurrence of regional conflicts after a cease-fire agreement, the United Nations sponsors peacekeeping operations, such as cease-fire monitoring, election monitoring, and reconstruction assistance. As of the end of May this year, U.N. peacekeeping operations are underway in 15 places around the world, mainly in Africa and the Middle East. (See Fig. 5-1-12.)

In addition, international organizations, such as the UNHCR, and individual countries engage in relief and reconstruction activities for the victims of conflicts and large-scale disasters from a humanitarian perspective or from the viewpoint of stabilizing the domestic situations of affected countries.

Japan, in a bid to fulfill a role commensurate to its international status, has been cooperating, both on human and financial fronts, with global efforts being led by the United Nations to build a peaceful and stable international society.

In order to help improve the international security environment, the Defense Agency and the SDF have positively engaged in international peace cooperation activities by dispatching troops, among other ways.

Deployment Status of International Peacekeeping Operations

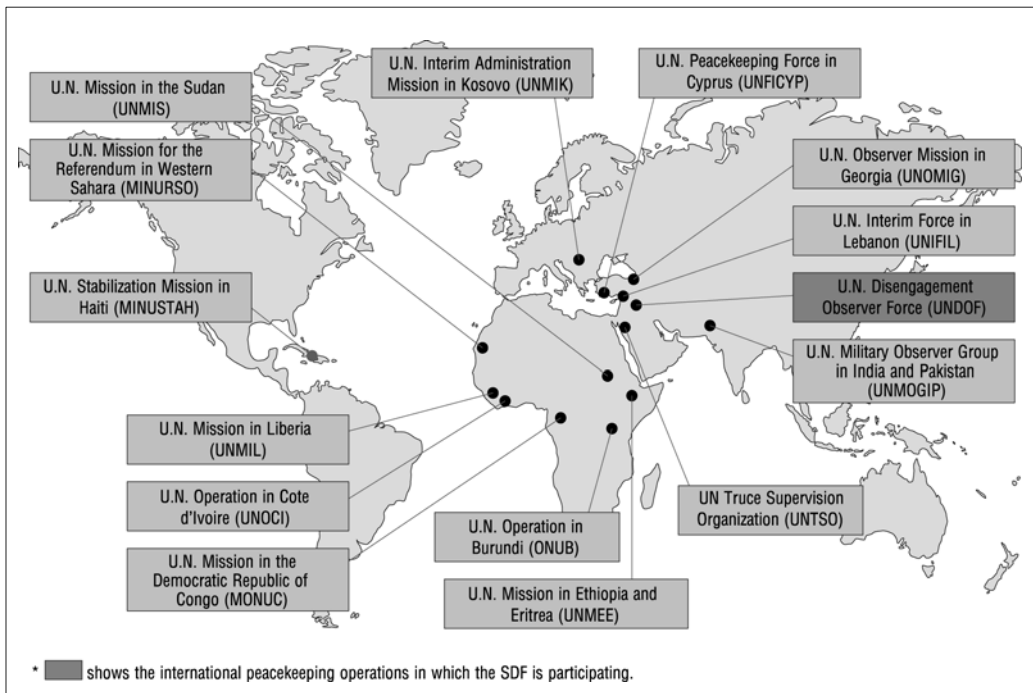


Fig. 5-1-12

(1) Outline of International Peace Cooperation Law

The International Peace Cooperation Law was enacted in June 1992. The law is designed to contribute further to global efforts being led by the United Nations to achieve peace in the international community by upgrading Japan's framework for cooperating appropriately and speedily in i) U.N. peacekeeping activities²⁰, ii) humanitarian support for international relief and rescue operations²¹ and iii) international election-monitoring activities.

The law stipulates a set of basic guidelines (the so-called five principles for participation)

for Japan's participation in a U.N. peacekeeping force (PKF). (See Fig. 5-1-13.)

Japan had suspended the SDF's participation in PKF's so-called core operations²². Meanwhile, the Defense Agency and the SDF had participated until 2001 in international peace cooperation operations, including providing logistical support to PKF missions, and steadily accumulated achievements and experience in the area. Finding expectations both at home and home for further participation in international peace cooperation activities, Japan amended the International Peace Cooperation Law in December 2001. The amendment lifted the ban on the SDF's participation in core PKF operations.

Based on the amended International Peace Cooperation Law, the SDF has dispatched its units and others

Basic Policy on Japan's Participation in U.N. Peacekeeping Forces (5 Principles)

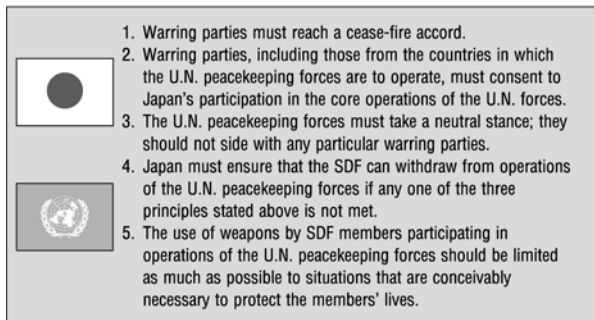


Fig. 5-1-13

to Cambodia, Mozambique and East Timor as part of Japan's cooperation in peacekeeping operations of the United Nations, and to Zaire (currently the Democratic Republic of Congo), Indonesia, Pakistan and Jordan as part of its cooperation in international humanitarian and relief activities. In addition, as part of its efforts to support U.N. peacekeeping operations, the SDF has been sending units and others to the Golan Heights since 1996. (See Fig. 5-1-14.)

International Peace Cooperation Activities by SDF

Duration	International Peace Cooperation Activities (Type of Activities)	Region
Sept. 1992–Sept. 1993	Cambodia (U.N. peace keeping activities)	Southeast Asia
May 1993–Jan. 1995	Mozambique (U.N. peace keeping activities)	Africa
Sept. 1994–Dec. 1994	Rwanda (Humanitarian support for international relief and rescue operations)	Africa
Feb. 1996–	The Golan Heights (U.N. peace keeping activities)	Middle East
Nov. 1999–Feb. 2000	East Timor (Humanitarian support for international relief and rescue operations)	Southeast Asia
Oct. 2001	Afghanistan (Humanitarian support for international relief and rescue operations)	Central Asia
Feb. 2002–June 2004	East Timor (U.N. peace keeping activities)	Southeast Asia
March 2003–April 2003	Iraq (Humanitarian support for international relief and rescue operations)	Middle East
July 2003–Aug. 2003	Iraq (Humanitarian support for international relief and rescue operations)	Middle East

Red and bold frame: International peacekeeping cooperation activities currently under operation

Fig. 5-1-14

(2) International Peace Cooperation Activities in the Golan Heights

1) Background to Japan's Decision to Send Troops to UNDOF

The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)²³ has been undertaking U.N. peacekeeping operations in a zone called the Area of Separation (AOS), set up to separate the opposing troops of Syria and Israel that have agreed to a cease-fire.

Japan's participation in the UNDOF operations is significant because it marks Japan's personnel contribution to world efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East. The participation is also significant for Japan because it would help train people who can fulfill international duties.

The Government of Japan decided in December 1995 to dispatch SDF units and others to the UNDOF. In February 1996, the first transport unit of 43 personnel was sent to the Golan Heights, and replaced a Canadian transport unit. Since then, an SDF unit has been sent there every six months on a rotating basis. As of the end of May, 2006, the 21st dispatch of the transport unit was operating in the Golan Heights.

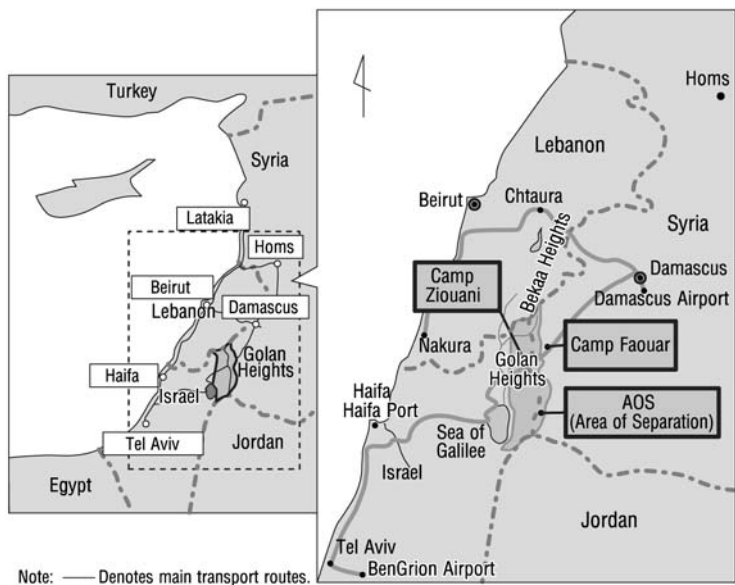


Fig. 5-1-15

2) Activities of SDF

The dispatched SDF transport unit is in charge of transporting daily goods and materials needed for UNDOF operations from the harbors, airports and commodities markets of Israel, Syria and Lebanon to the

UNDOF campsites. The unit also provides logistical support, including repairs of roads which have become slippery due to rain and snowfall, and removal of snow from streets in plateau areas with an altitude of more than 2,800 meters. The transport unit is stationed in the same campsite as Indian forces, which replaced Canadian forces in March this year. Members of the SDF and Indian forces share their meals, which contributes to deepening the relationship between Japan and India.

The ASDF flies a C-130H transport plane and a U-4 multipurpose assistance plane to the Golan Heights every six months to transport goods and materials for the transport unit.

Two SDF personnel being sent to the UNDOF headquarters overseas take charge of planning and coordination of transport and other UNDOF rear-support operations, and are also responsible for publicity and budget-related works. SDF personnel are assigned to the UNDOF headquarters for about one year, and are replaced by other SDF personnel after completing their assignment. SDF personnel working at the UNDOF headquarters as of the end of May 2006 were the 11th to be sent there.

Japan had originally intended to complete its participation in UNDOF operations within two years. However, participation has continued until now after comprehensively examining various factors, such as strong requests from the United Nations, commendation being given to past Japanese operations by the United Nations and relevant countries, and the importance of Japan's personnel contribution to peace in the Middle East.

Japan's SDF dispatch to UNDOF marked its 10th anniversary in January this year. During the decade, the GSDF dispatched 21 units with a total of about 900 personnel for the mission. The experience the SDF has accumulated through the mission has been helpful in paving the ground-work for other missions including participation in U.N. peacekeeping operations and activities to support the reconstruction of Iraq.

When a ceremony was held at the local campsite in January this year to mark the 10th anniversary of Japan's participation in UNDOF, UNDOF Force Commander Lieutenant-General Bala Nanda Sharma commended the SDF for its contribution, saying its activities in the past decade were superb as they showed professionalism in every part of the operation.

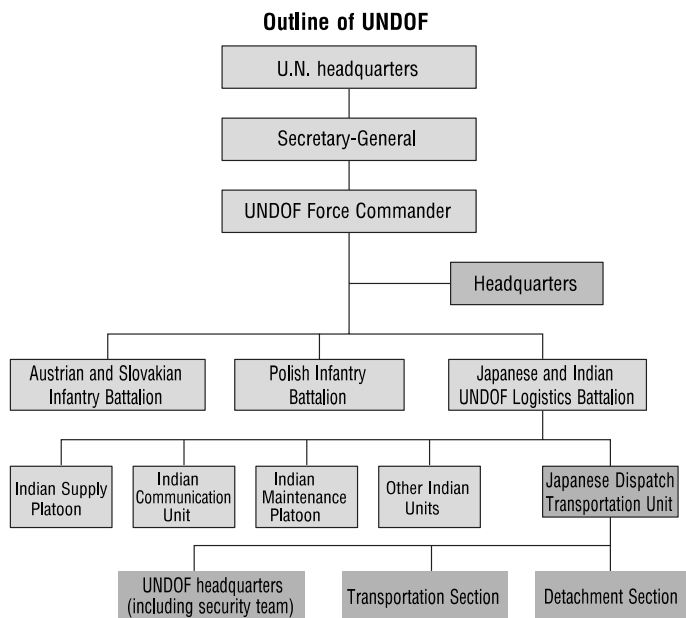


Fig. 5-1-16

(3) International Peace Cooperation Activities in East Timor

The United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET)²⁴ took over peacekeeping operations from the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), an entity tasked with managing overall administrative affairs in pre-independence East Timor, following its formal independence on May 20, 2002.

The Government of Japan decided to dispatch SDF units and others to have them participate in a U.N.-sponsored PKO in response to a request from the United Nations. Japan has dispatched about 2,300